



Billy Jack's Own Story:  
"I OWE MY LIFE TO PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING"

June 1984

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# Wrestler<sup>THE</sup>

## DAVID VON ERICH

We'll Never Forget You

A Personal Message From  
His Family

Tributes From His Fans  
And Friends

A Career Retrospective

Nick Bockwinkel vs.  
Dino Bravo:  
**MAGNIFICENCE IN  
MONTREAL**

A Night With No Losers:  
**FLAIR VS. RACE—  
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# THE Wrestler

## CONTENTS/JUNE 1984

### 6 YOUR LETTERS

Hate To See It Happen; Criticism Of Race; The Russian Alliance

### 8 WHAT'S HAPPENING

All the latest news as of press time

### 10 CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

Eyewitness coverage of the month's major matches

### 12 YOU ASKED US

Top stars answer YOUR questions

### 14 THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

Cheers and jeers to those who deserve them most

### 18 INTRODUCING BRICKHOUSE BROWN

A unique story of a young man and his wrestling dreams

### 22 Q & A

A timely discussion with National champion Brad Armstrong

### 26 X-RAY

Our panel of experts examines Terry Taylor

### 28 BILLY JACK'S OWN STORY:

#### "I OWE MY LIFE TO PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING"

A shocking story of personal tragedy

### 31 FLAIR VS. RACE—FOR CHARITY:

#### A NIGHT WITH NO LOSERS

All feuds and hatred were forgotten for one night

### 34 DAVID VON ERICH: WE'LL NEVER FORGET YOU

#### • A CAREER RETROSPECTIVE

#### • TRIBUTES FROM HIS FANS AND FRIENDS

#### • A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM HIS FAMILY

### 40 NICK BOCKWINKEL VS. DINO BRAVO:

#### MAGNIFICENCE IN MONTREAL

One of the greatest matches Canadian fans have ever seen

### 42 BEYOND THE SQUARED CIRCLE

Candid photos of your favorite stars

### 45 RATINGS ANALYSIS

A guide to some changes and a dip into the mailbag

### 46 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

The sport's most respected rankings

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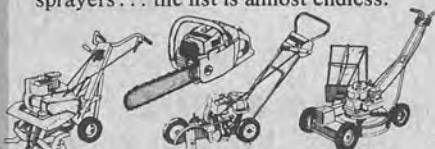
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Roddy Piper's sudden turn to rulebreaker has left David Milkes and many other fans very confused.

## HATE TO SEE IT HAPPEN

I don't understand it. Roddy Piper in the Mid-Atlantic is an extremely popular wrestler, but after being in the WWF for less than a month he is terribly disliked. His sudden change to rulebreaker has left me confused. Piper's managing of "Dr. Death" David Shultz and Paul Orndorff has made me wonder if he's changed. Piper is constantly insulting fan favorites like Tony Garea, Tito Santana,

and Eddie Gilbert. I hope this change in Piper's actions will not last long. I'd hate to see such an extraordinary wrestler as Piper become a hated rulebreaker like Jack and Jerry Brisco have.

DAVID MILKES  
Spring Valley, NY

## CRITICISM OF RACE

I would like to comment on seven-time former NWA World champion Harley Race. Now that Race has lost the World title to Ric Flair, a lot of critics are saying that his seventh NWA title reign was nothing more than a fluke, much like they did the first time he won it in 1973. They also criticize Race by saying that in order for him to have won the NWA title seven times he had to have lost it six times.

What's wrong with these people? Don't they realize that winning the NWA title one time alone is a major accomplishment and the dream of every wrestler today? Who cares if Race lost the title the same amount of times he won it? Every wrestler loses at one time or another in his career. The main thing is that when he loses the belt, he shouldn't let it



Harley Race, about to slam Ric Flair, should be recognized as the greatest champion of all time, writes Mike Stone.

get him down and become depressed. Race had enough pride and determination to come back and win it again. In my opinion, this fact overshadows any criticism, so why don't all the critics get off Race's back and start recognizing him the way history will recognize him—as the greatest NWA champion of all time?

MIKE STONE  
Bethalto, IL  
(Continued on page 50)

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

**Jumbo Tsuruta** captured the AWA World heavyweight championship from **Nick Bockwinkel** on February 22 at the Kurame Sumo Arena in Tokyo, Japan. Tsuruta won the match using a **Lou Thesz**-style backdrop at the 32-minute mark. Tsuruta's title-clinching maneuver came right after Bockwinkel had failed with a suplex.

Tsuruta gave credit to Thesz for helping him gain the coveted belt. Thesz, a six-time NWA World heavyweight champion, was obviously proud at the achievement of his student. "I know how Jumbo Tsuruta feels," he said. "I've been there a few times myself! I feel like the skating coach in the Olympics who watches the pair he's trained for years win the gold medal."

Here's an interesting match that took place recently in New Orleans: **Gorgeous Jim Garvin** vs. his former valet, **Sunshine**. Don't believe it? Well, here's what happened: Garvin wrestled blindfolded with one arm tied behind his back. At one point in the match, Garvin's current valet, **Precious**, inter-



Jumbo Tsuruta upset Nick Bockwinkel in Tokyo to win the AWA World heavyweight championship.

fered and untied Garvin's hand. Garvin reached up to pull his blindfold off, and he was met with the sight of Sunshine brandishing a chair. **WHAM!** That's a match that Garvin will remember for a long time to come!

**Sweet Daddy Siki** won the

North American heavyweight title from **Pedro Morales** in a steel cage match in Bayamon, Puerto Rico ... **Krusher Krushchev**? No, it's not the new premier of Russia. It's the name that **Krusher Darsow** wants to be known by from now on ... **Curt Hennig** and **Scott McGhee** lost the Pacific Northwest tag team belts to the combination of **Rip Oliver** and **The Assassin**.

**The Fabulous Ones**, **Steve Keirn** and **Stan Lane**, have left the Mid-Southern area. According to their former mentor, **Jackie Fargo**, the split came about as the result of a disagreement over match strategies and tactics, as well as over Fargo's recommended training regimen. "We just reached the point where we couldn't agree on anything anymore," Fargo told us. We've also learned that Fargo is looking to endorse another young tag team that will take on the name of **The Fabulous Ones**. He is reportedly negotiating with **Brian Adidas**, **Curt Hennig**, **Tommy Rogers**, **Terry Taylor**, and **Eddie Gilbert**.

(Continued on page 54)

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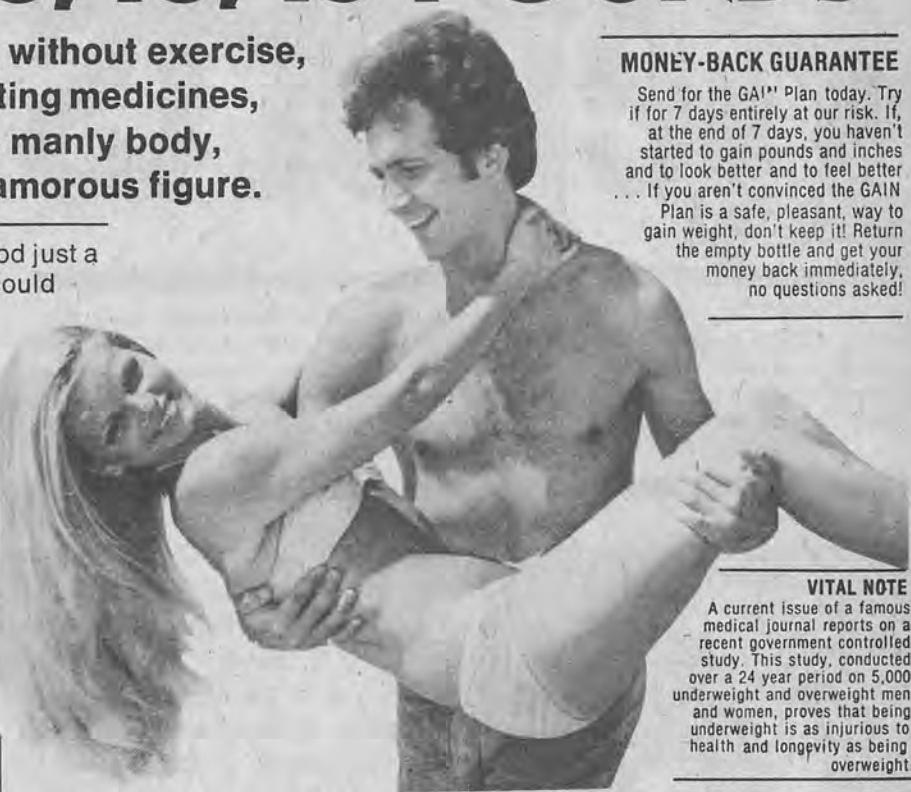
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CORRESPONDENT EDITOR, BOX 48, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571.



Road Warrior Animal holds Pez Whatley's head with his muscular left arm while he digs his knuckles into the Pistol's temple.

**Atlanta, Georgia, (Correspondent —Steve Hendrix):** The National tag team champion Road Warriors battled Pistol Pez Whatley and his partner, Sweet Brown Sugar, in The Omni. King Kong Bundy, who had been betrayed by The Road Warriors'

manager, Paul Ellering, on television the day before, accompanied the challengers to ringside, presumably to prevent Ellering from interfering in the match.

Neither team could take a decisive advantage in the beginning of the match, as The Road Warriors used their superior strength to combat the high-flying talents of the challengers.

Later in the bout, Sugar and Whatley hurt Animal with a double-headbutt. As Whatley covered Animal, Ellering ran into the ring, causing his team's disqualification. Bundy and Brett Sawyer then joined the melee and cleared the ring.

In other bouts, Ted DiBiase defeated Jack Brisco . . . Mr. R defeated The Spoiler by disqualification . . . Jake Roberts defeated Jerry Brisco . . . Ron Garvin defeated King Kong Bundy by countout . . . Les Thornton drew with Brad Armstrong . . . Johnny Rich defeated Jesse Barr.

**Columbia, South Carolina, (Correspondent —Jack L. Murphy):** Paul Jones' team of The Assassins battled "Boogie Woogie Man" Jimmy Valiant and Dory Funk Jr. Both Funk and Valiant



Jimmy Valiant, minus his long white beard, traps Assassin II in an abdominal stretch.

held grudges against their opponents' manager. Jones had cut off Valiant's beard during a television interview two weeks earlier. Funk had been managed by Jones until he lost the Mid-Atlantic title to Rufus R. Jones and the two began to feud.

The fan favorites attacked their masked opponents at the bell. Soon, however, The Assassins took control with illegal tactics. They double-teamed Funk, who escaped their grasp and rolled under the bottom rope and outside the ring. Funk took advantage of his location outside the ring by attacking Jones.

Valiant then entered the ring and tried to unmask both Assassins. The match ended when Funk held Assassin I while Valiant tried to unmask Assassin II. Valiant threw Assassin II over the top rope and was disqualified.

In other bouts, Greg Valentine defeated Ernie Ladd . . . Johnny Weaver defeated Gene Anderson . . . Mark Youngblood defeated Hans Schroeder . . . Tim Horner defeated Gary Royal . . . Vinnie Valentino defeated Tony Russo.

(Continued on page 58)

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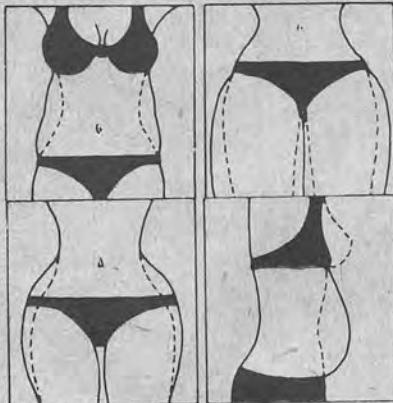
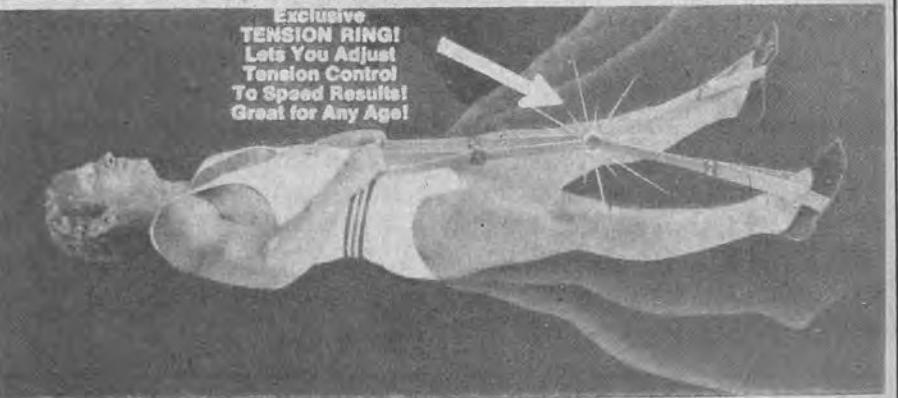
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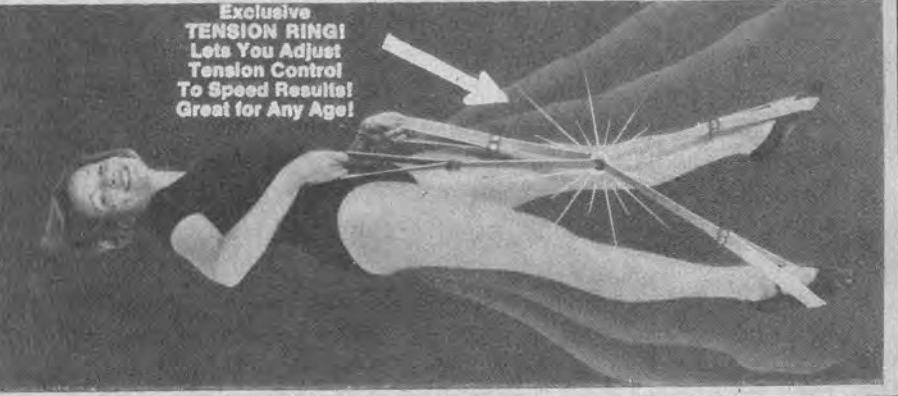


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# YOU ASKED US

**Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion**

**Q:** "My question is for Angelo Mosca Jr.: What does it feel like to wrestle side by side with your father? He seems to be very proud of you." —Mattie Johnson, Thomasville, NC

**A:** "It's the greatest feeling," Mosca replied. "My life's goal was to wrestle along with my father ever since the first time I saw one of his matches. It's really a dream come true."

**Q:** "I really enjoy watching Jay Youngblood and Wahoo McDaniel wrestle on *World Championship Wrestling* from Georgia. Are they going to be wrestling in the 'WCW on Tour' cities?" —Bob Berman, Saginaw, MI

**A:** "We're looking forward to it," McDaniel said. "Jay and I really enjoy wrestling together, and we're looking for those National



Angelo Mosca Jr. says that teaming with his father has always been his dream. "It's funny," Angelo Sr. adds, "I've always dreamed of teaming with my son."

tag team titles. I know that The Road Warriors are a tough team, but I think Jay and I might be the right combination to beat them. I hope you'll get the chance to see us at your arena."

**Q:** "My question is for Tommy 'Wildfire' Rich: What do you think of your friend Paul Orndorff wrestling as a rulebreaker in the WWF?" —Chris Benedict, Hampton Bays, NY

**A:** Rich replied: "I can't understand what has happened to Paul or Roddy Piper. I thought that they were both good



When Paul Orndorff wrestled Buzz Sawyer in July 1982, he was the fan favorite and Buzz was hated. If they wrestled today, the opposite would be true.

friends of mine, but I haven't heard from either of them since they left Georgia. Sometimes, people just have to leave everything behind and start anew. I think that's what happened to Paul and Roddy. I don't approve of what they're doing in the WWF, but I don't have anything to say about it. I'm not their daddy. I hope that soon they see that they're doing something wrong and they'll correct their mistakes."

(Continued on page 56)

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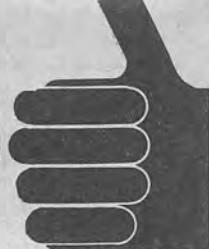
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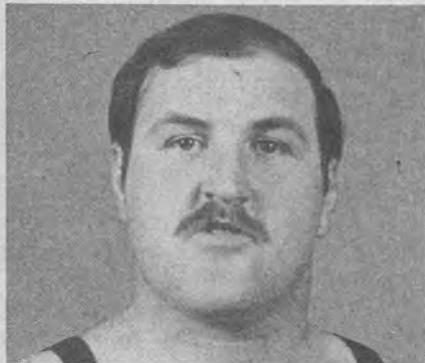
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# Thumbs Up

Each Issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



**THUMBS UP** to Ric Flair: The NWA World champion is the most sought-after man in the sport of professional wrestling. He has a long list of mandatory challengers to defend his title against, and there are many other top stars who are deserving of title shots. Flair has made room in his schedule to take on the challenge of young Angelo Mosca Jr., the Mid-Atlantic champion. Flair understands that Mosca Jr. is deserving of an opportunity to wrestle for the NWA crown, and has shown that he is a fair champion by giving a voluntary title shot to the Mid-Atlantic champ.



**THUMBS UP** to Sgt. Slaughter: Many fans long wondered how a patriotic man like Sgt. Slaughter could sit idly by while WWF rulebreakers like The Iron Sheik, Mr. Fuji, and Tiger Chung Lee insulted the United States with their remarks. Slaughter has finally begun to take action against these foreign wrestlers. In a six-man tag team match at New York's Madison Square Garden, Slaughter turned his back on partners Fuji and Lee and sided with Tony Atlas, Rocky Johnson, and Ivan Putski. He has publicly denounced the Sheik, thereby beginning a brutal feud. Slaughter's change in philosophy should be commended.



**THUMBS UP** to Tito Santana: After months of campaigning in the WWF and experiencing the frustration of not receiving opportunities to wrestle for the WWF championship, Santana defeated Magnificent Muraco in the Boston Garden to become the new Intercontinental champion. Santana fought bravely in this battle and absorbed a great deal of physical punishment during the match before rallying to victory. At one point, Santana had been dropped throatfirst on the steel fence surrounding the ring, and then he was bodyslammed onto the arena floor. Santana should be praised for his recuperative powers and desire. It was those traits that made him champion.



**THUMBS UP** to Harley Race: Race has reminded the entire wrestling world that the men we see battle in the ring are not just athletes, but caring people as well. Race, in association with the Kansas City wrestling promoters, dedicated a spectacular wrestling card to a local high school athlete, Jeff Wicina, who had been paralyzed from the shoulders down in a football game. The money collected from the crowd will help the Wicina family pay the costs of Jeff's treatment and rehabilitation.

# Thumbs Down



**THUMBS DOWN** to Mr. Wrestling II: The Mid-South wrestling fans are stunned by the recent actions of Mr. Wrestling II, supposedly one of the sport's most loved men. Magnum T.A., who is coached by Wrestling II, was designated as the number one contender for Junkyard Dog's North American title. II ridiculed Mid-South Wrestling and JYD for choosing T.A., claiming that he and JYD could easily defeat the young star. II made a display of his jealousy by slapping T.A. during a television interview. His actions have been reprehensible.



**THUMBS DOWN** to Brad Armstrong: National champion Ted DiBiase assumed he was wrestling a masked Tommy Rich when he stepped into the ring to defend his belt against Mr. R. At the end of the match, he unmasked his opponent to find Brad Armstrong under the hood. Armstrong had been seen with Mr. R on many occasions in the past, so some believe this match was Armstrong's first and only appearance as Mr. R. We feel that Armstrong has disgraced and demeaned the National championship by bringing confusion and controversy into the title picture.



**THUMBS DOWN** to Gorgeous Jim Garvin: The former American heavyweight champion recently wrestled in a match against his former valet, Sunshine, who left his employ several months back amidst much bitterness on both sides. Despite the fact that Garvin agreed to wear a blindfold and to have one arm tied behind his back, a match of this nature should never have taken place. Even if Sunshine were a trained wrestler (which she is not) there is no place in such a physically demanding sport for a battle between the sexes.



**THUMBS DOWN** to Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie: The Arab oil baron turned wrestler-manager seems to be preparing for the largest contract purchase in the history of professional wrestling. He recently sent shockwaves through the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) by selling oil leases to a number of anonymous investors. It has been rumored that Al-Kaissie is raising great cash reserves in order to purchase the contracts of The Road Warriors, Big John Studd, Giant Kamala, Hacksaw Butch Reed, and Abdullah the Butcher. Kaissie should be damned for trying to take control of wrestling through his vast wealth. □

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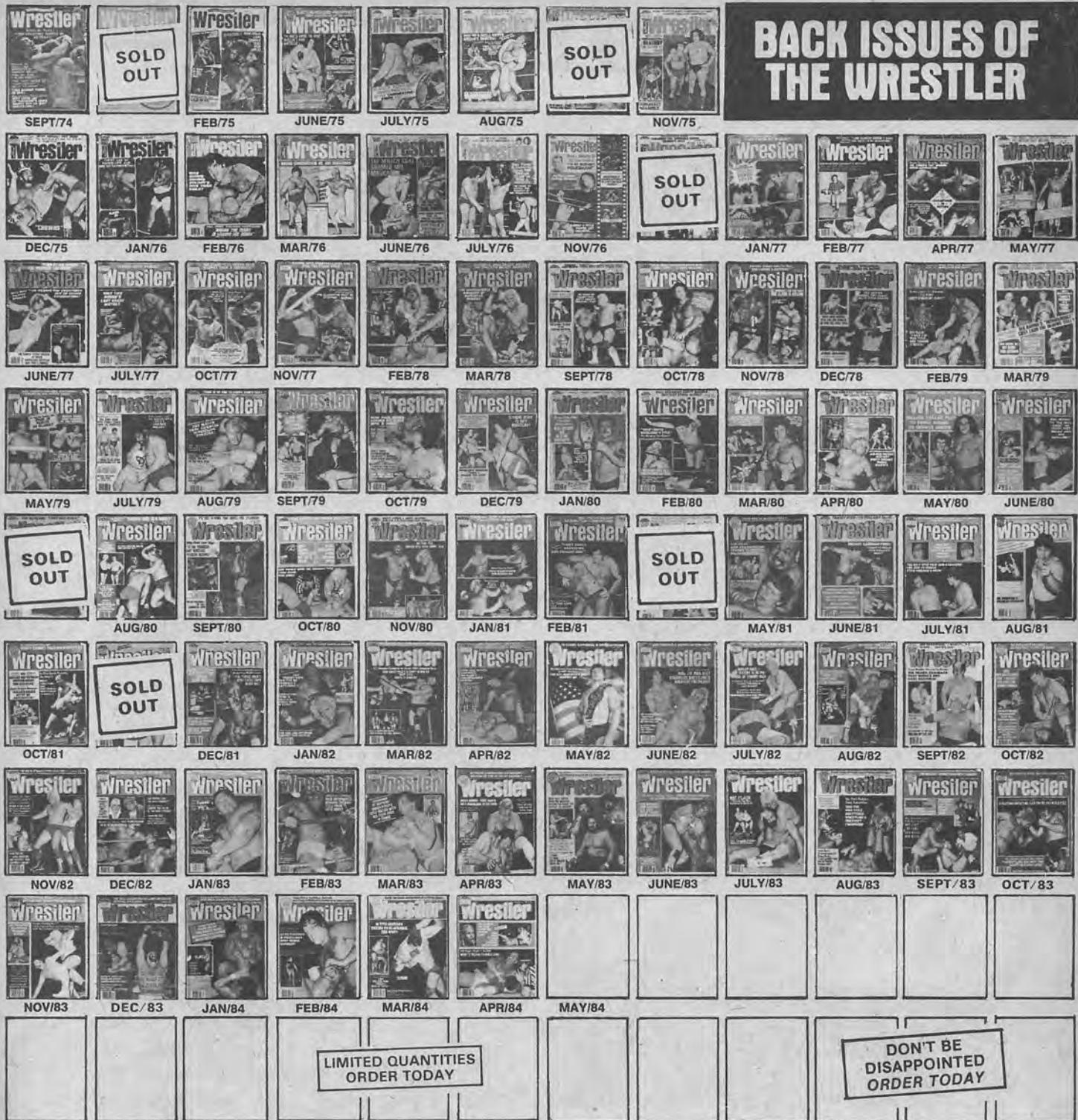
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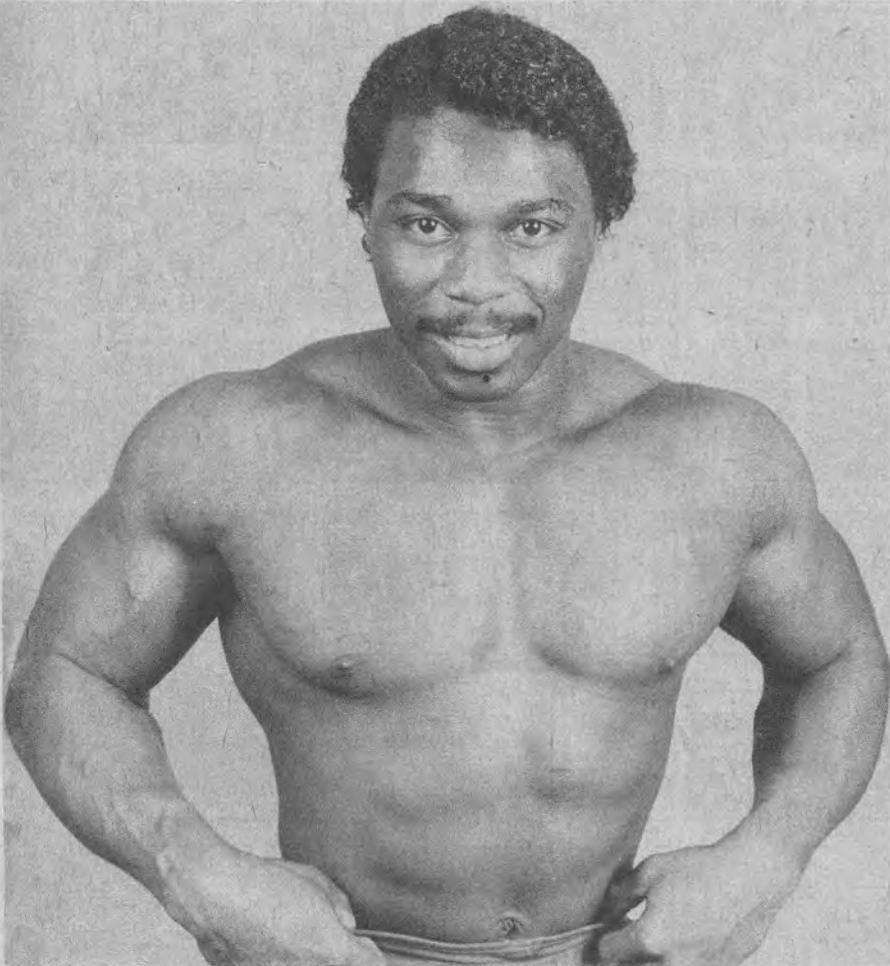
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# —INTRODUCING—

# BRICKHOUSE BROWN



**I**F BRICKHOUSE BROWN ever wins the NWA World heavyweight championship, the first man he will thank is *The Wrestler's* Senior Editor, Bill Apter. Two years ago, Brown was graduating from

the University of Kansas and looking at a future of uncertainty. Thanks to his persistence and the help of a respected journalist, Brown is a professional wrestler today.

"Graduation Day was probably the scariest day of my life," Brown said. "After high school, I knew I was going to college. But after college, I didn't know where I was going."

"I wanted to be a professional wrestler, but I didn't know anyone," Brown explained. "You just can't show up at an arena and say, 'Here I am, give me a title shot.' You've gotta know someone, a promoter, another wrestler, even one of the guys who puts the ring together in an arena. You've gotta meet someone who can help you."

The only man Brown knew in professional wrestling was Apter, and he knew him only through his work with the magazines. "I've been reading *The Wrestler* and *Inside Wrestling* since I was a kid," Brown said. "I didn't exactly know Mr. Apter, but I felt like I did."

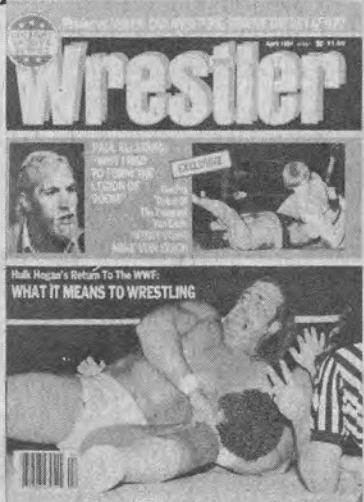
Brown sent his first letter to Apter in July of 1982. "I don't even remember seeing the first one," Apter said. "I get a lot of mail from fans who want to be wrestlers."

The second time Brown wrote to Apter, he sent a photo. "That was a gift from my aunt and uncle, a

(Continued on page 20)

**Brickhouse Brown likes to credit *The Wrestler's* Senior Editor, Bill Apter, for giving him the opportunity to become a pro wrestler. But there's a lot more to it than that. It was Brown's own persistence that led him into this great sport, and that same persistence might some day carry him right to the top**

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## INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)



Brown's size disadvantage becomes less important when his opponent is lowered to his knees. Brickhouse has Barry Orton in pain with a twist of the wrist.

graduation present," Brown recalled. "I told them I needed photos. I guess they thought I wanted the cap-and-gown-type stuff. They came to the photo studio, and I think they were pretty surprised to see me in wrestling trunks. They walked in and I was doing curls with a pair of dumbbells, pumping up for the photos."

Photos of Brickhouse Brown began to appear on Apter's desk soon thereafter. Every two or three days for about three months, an envelope from Brown's Winter Haven, Florida, home got dropped on Apter's desk.

"We had enough photos to paper a whole wall of my office," Apter said, "which is exactly what the rest of the staff did: I walked in one morning and I thought I was seeing things—50 Brickhouse Browns were looking at me!"

"That's when I decided that I had to do something for this kid," Apter said. "He spent so much money on those prints and the

postage. So I took some of the photos down and I sent them off to some promoters with a note attached. It was still a longshot, even with Brown's extensive amateur experience, but I had to give it a chance."

The longshot came in. Texas promoter Joe Blanchard contacted Brown, and before long Brown was a professional wrestler.

"It took a lot of guts to get in the ring the first time," he said. "When I got in the ring and looked out at the crowd, I said to myself, 'What am I doing? I should be out there watching!' But the panic came and went really quick, out of necessity more than anything."

He looked across the ring, saw his opponent, Bobby Jagers, and his mind, trained by four years of collegiate wrestling competition, switched into gear on its own. "I had this system in college," he said. "I wouldn't look at my opponent until right before the match started. From the time I looked at



Brown, who possesses deceptive strength, prepares to throw Orton across the ring and onto his back.

him, the match was all I thought about."

Battling bravely, Brown fell victim to inexperience and was defeated. "He pulled my trunks," Brown said. "It's no sour grapes, 'cause I'm not ashamed of that match. I was green. I never expected him to pull my trunks to pin me. Today, it would be a different story."

Brown has had experience forced upon him by some of the toughest wrestlers in the Mid-Atlantic area, including U.S. champion Dick Slater and The Assassins. His wrestling knowledge has increased dramatically since his debut, but weighing only 225 pounds, he enters most of his matches as an apparent physical underdog.

"The size differences don't mean a thing to me," he insists. "I'm one of the new breed of wrestlers. I'm coming in at 225, but it's a lean 225, no fat at all. I've built my body for professional wrestling. I train for power, a combination of strength and speed. The guys who come in at 270 or 280 make a bigger noise when they get bodyslammed, and that's the only difference. They're no stronger than me."

Brown's training regimen, which he designed himself, includes weight training, stretching, and cardiovascular exercises. "I see myself as a combination of Tony Atlas, Butch Reed, and Sweet Brown Sugar," he said. "I haven't come up with a name for my style yet, but let's just say that every time I get into the ring I'm gunning for it. Maybe I'll call it the 'gun it and go.' "

Like the wrestlers he mentioned, Brown's goal is to become the first black world champion. "And I think I have an advantage over them," he said. "I'm the youngest. I've got the calendar on my side."

Gun it and go! □

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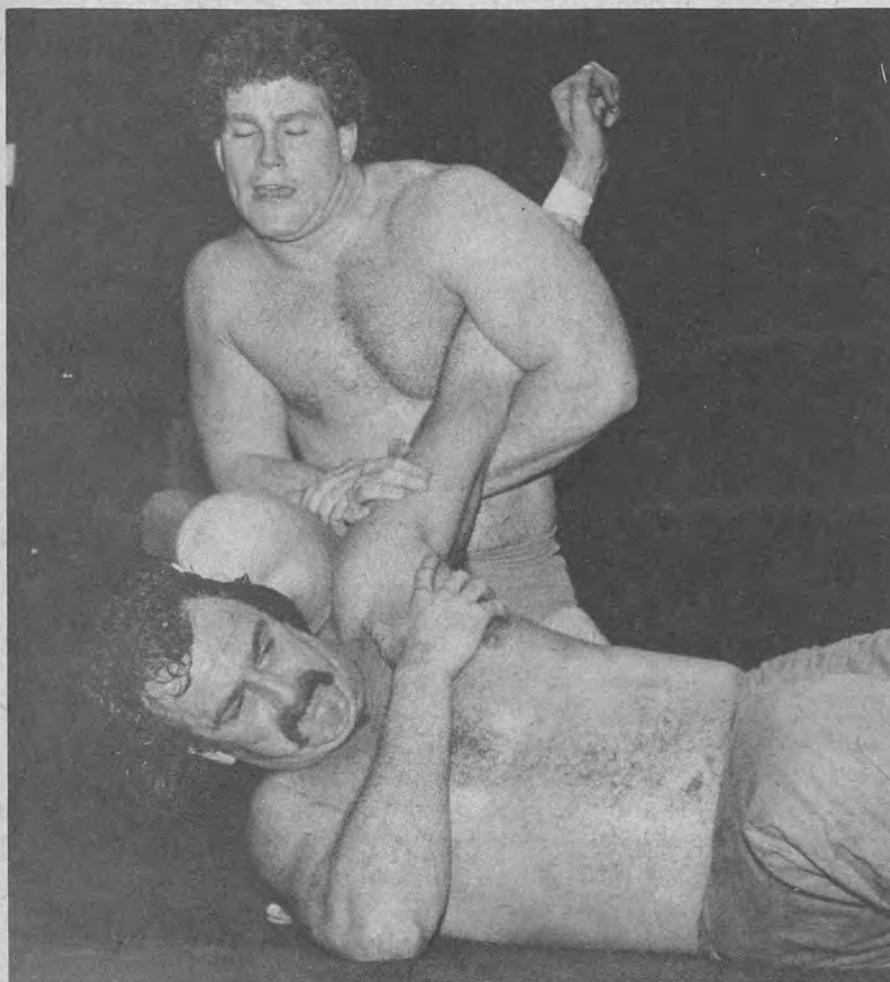
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# Q&A

Each month,  
*The Wrestler* will  
present a "Question and  
Answer" forum with an important  
figure in the wrestling world. It is your  
chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars  
as they answer the questions uppermost in  
the fans' minds



**Q:** First off, congratulations on winning the National heavyweight championship.

**A:** Well, thank you. I know there were a lot of extraordinary circumstances surrounding this match, but I'm still very happy about the victory.

**Q:** No one expected that it would be you under that mask, especially DiBiase. He expected Tommy Rich.

**A:** I don't know why he would expect Tommy, do you (laughs)? Tommy's been banned from wrestling.

**Q:** Was this the first time you had wrestled as Mr. R?

**A:** Maybe. Maybe not.

**Q:** But you do know who Mr. R is.

**A:** I know that Mr. R is a good wrestler and he's a helluva guy. That's all you're gonna get out of me.

**Q:** Okay, I'll let that rest for now. Why did you masquerade as Mr. R, even for that one match? Don't you think you could have gotten a title shot without doing that?

**A:** I could have gotten the shot, sure. But I don't think I could have accomplished as much as I did without the mask as I did with it.

**Q:** Meaning he would have been prepared for you, right?



## BRAD ARMSTRONG

**W**HEN TED DIBIASE signed to defend his National title against the mysterious Mr. R on national TV, he thought he knew what he was getting himself into. DiBiase stood across the ring from a man he was certain was Tommy Rich in disguise. Only after he removed his challenger's mask did he find out that the identity of Mr. R, at least on this night, was Brad Armstrong. Dumbfounded, DiBiase stopped wrestling and turned his attention to Rich, who was walking up to announcer Gordon Solie's podium. Armstrong took advantage of the situation and rolled the stunned DiBiase into a cradle for the victory. Armstrong said that with the victory, he has begun to repay DiBiase for mutilating the face of his father, Bob Armstrong, in a brutal attack in Ohio. Armstrong discusses the title match, his father's injury, and the reason he donned the mask of Mr. R. with Managing Editor Stu Saks.

**A:** That's part of it. If he would have known he was wrestling me, he might have prepared differently for the match, but to tell you the truth, I doubt that. I don't think DiBiase trains for anything anymore except finding the most efficient ways of breaking the rules. The thing is, we accomplished something more than taking his title away. Mr. R and Tommy and I humiliated DiBiase. Remember his face when he took off the mask, and then when he saw Tommy with Mr. Solie. He was stopped cold in his tracks. He was floored. After all that talk about Tommy wrestling as Mr. R, he took off the mask and found me under it.

**Q:** You let him take off the mask?

**A:** Well, I knew he'd try, but I didn't want to let on that I wanted him to actually get it off, so I struggled a little at first. The look on DiBiase's face was priceless. I knew he'd be numb, and that's when I rolled him into the cradle.

**Q:** Do you feel as if your need to exact revenge for your father has been satisfied?

**A:** I haven't even begun to pay DiBiase back for what he did to my father. The man is lying in the hospital. He can't even



Brad Armstrong has wrestled Jake Roberts several times in the past and considers "The Snake" a major threat to his National title. Brad applies a hammerlock (above) and an armbar (opposite page) against Roberts.

smile. He has trouble talking. The cheekbones were shattered. They had to remove a rib to form two new cheekbones for him. He's in incredible pain. DiBiase broke my dad's face. *Broke his face!* I don't think taking his title away is enough. I don't know if anything I could do to him will ever be enough.

**Q:** DiBiase has said in interviews that he wasn't the only person responsible for injuring your father.

**A:** I've heard. I don't know what he means by that. I don't know who else might have been involved in this. My father isn't talking about it. I don't really think there is anyone else. I think he said that to try and get me off his back.

**Q:** Let's say there was one, or two, or even three other people who were indirectly involved in the attack on your father. Don't you think it would be detrimental to your career to spend all your time seeking revenge



against all of them? Don't you think that could contribute to your losing this title, the first major title you have ever held?

**A:** Sometimes you have to put aside what you want when you're a member of a family. We're a really close family. We take care of each other. Dad's used to taking care of us, but now it's time for me to take care of him. I owe him so much, I couldn't even begin to tell you about it. This title is important to me, and I don't wish to demean it at all, but family is number one with me. There's gonna be a whole lot of time for me. Right now, my time is for my dad.

**Q:** Still, you have the National title to defend. DiBiase obviously stands as the number one contender for the belt, but after him there's a whole string of possible contenders. Jake Roberts, Pez Whatley, The Spoiler, and Ronnie Garvin would all

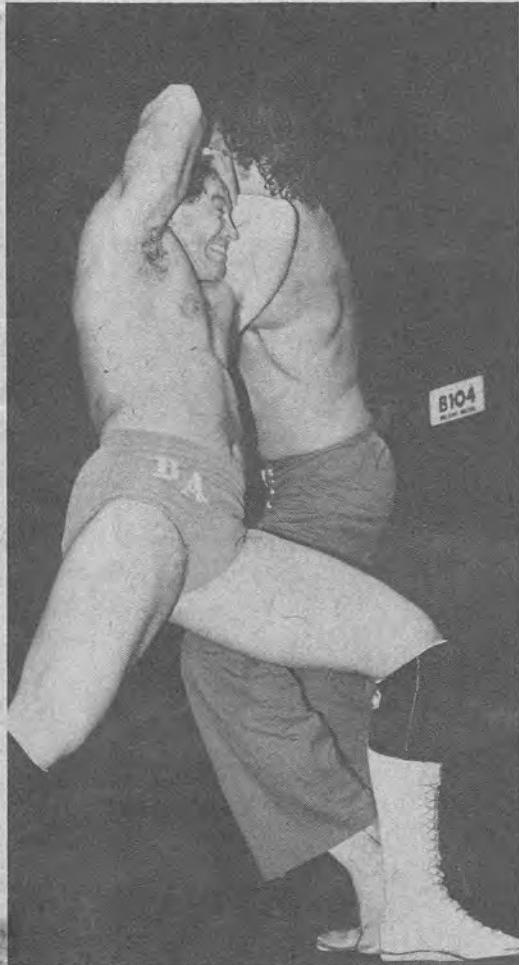
Brad has learned so much from his father, Bob, over the years that he feels it is time to start repaying him (above). Winning the National title from the man who mutilated his father's face gave Brad a measure of revenge. Brad is congratulated by Tommy Rich as referee Scrappy McGowan raises his hand (below). Brad locks in a test of strength with Roberts (opposite right).



like a chance to win the title.  
**A:** I know it. There's a whole lot of talented men here, and they all deserve a chance to wrestle for this belt. Jake Roberts is a

particularly tough man. I've been in some wars with him. He doesn't let anything stand in the way of what he wants, and if he decides he wants the Na-

tional title, you know he's gonna be giving it 100 percent. The Spoiler is a smart veteran who has gotten tougher and tougher through the years. Paul Ellering makes both Roberts and The Spoiler even tougher wrestlers, just by being at ring-side. Ronnie Garvin and Pistol Pez are two title defenses I would love to make. Matches against them would be classics.



**Q:** Brad, this is the first major singles title you've held. Do the extraordinary circumstances diminish the importance of it at all? Would it mean more to you if you had won it without all the confusion about your identity?

**A:** I guess I'll never know. That's the way it happened and no one has the power to change it. It wasn't a typical title victory, but you've gotta admit it was memorable. I'll always remember it. □

# Wrestling '84

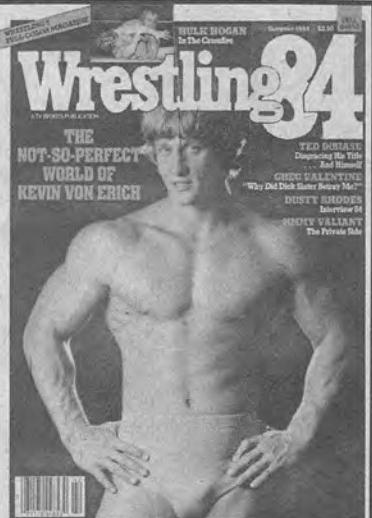
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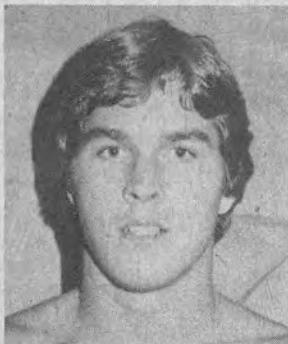
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## THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

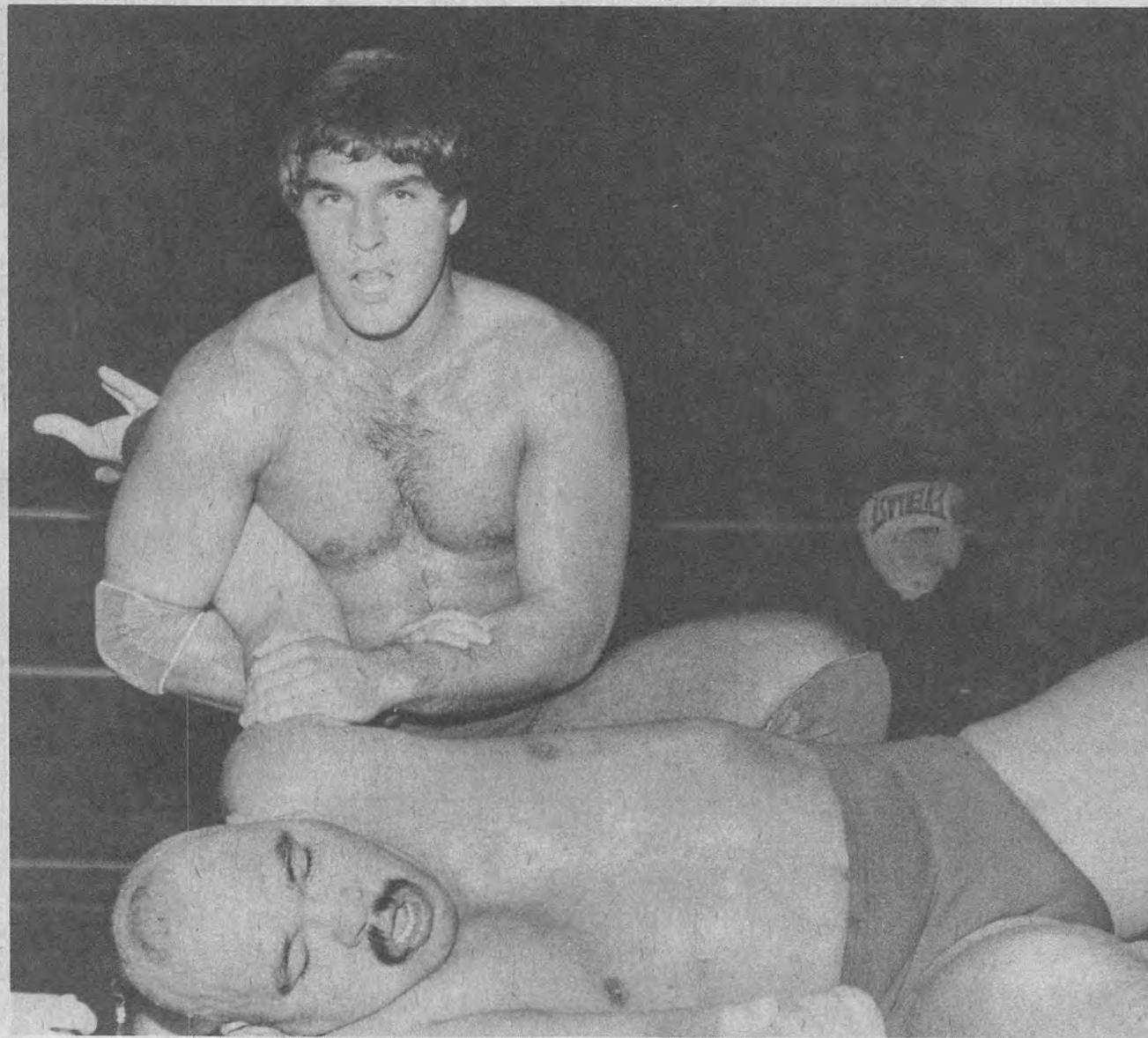
# RAY



### TERRY TAYLOR

Each month

THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



To look at him, you'd never believe he would make his living at the most grueling profession known to man. Many opponents have made the mistake of taking this baby-faced wrestler lightly. But Terry Taylor is an accomplished professional who has proven much about his ability and courage. He is to be respected.



### **BRUNO SAMMARTINO**

"Awhile back, I saw Terry Taylor wrestling in tag team matches with another young kid named Bobby Fulton. They were very quick and they had a lot of talent. They were a good team. Now I hear that Terry's taking the Mid-South by storm. He decked Nikolai Volkoff, and I know how hard that is to do. Anyone who can put Volkoff on his back is okay in my book. I think he has a big future ahead of him."

---

Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is considered the finest wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.



### **VERNE GAGNE**

"Terry Taylor is a lot like I was in style. He has a very good dropkick. A lot of people dropkick, but only a few get enough height in their jump to really make it effective. Terry's got it down very well. The only problem I see for him is his size. I used speed and the ability to think on my feet to counteract my lack of size. If Terry's going to be a success, he's going to have to do the same."

---

Verne Gagne held the AWA World title a record 11 times. He was recently voted "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years.



### **GENE KINISKI**

"This is a kid, a little kid. He looks like he should still be in high school, or maybe in one of those beach movies with Annette Funicello. A surfer, that's what he looks like, a beach boy. He sure doesn't look like a wrestler. He doesn't look like he can stand up to the punishment that you have to take in professional wrestling. He's gonna get eaten alive. Surf's up, Terry. Go find another career."

---

Gene Kiniski is a rugged Canadian who was NWA World champion in the late 1960s.



### **BUDDY ROGERS**

"You have to respect a man like Terry Taylor. He has jumped right into the middle of a dangerous situation in the Mid-South region. He took on Nikolai Volkoff and Krusher Darsow all alone, without even knowing if he was gonna get any backup. He showed the fans what he was made of right away. He's a brave young man. He likes his wrestling style, and I like the way he thinks. He's gonna enjoy a lot of success."

---

Buddy Rogers is the only man to hold the NWA World and WWF titles. He is currently a wrestling manager and a television commentator.



### **LOU THESZ**

"Terry Taylor is a really hard worker. I'm the first to admit that he has a lot of natural ability, but he's really worked hard to polish that natural athleticism into wrestling skill. He performs the basic maneuvers with a crispness that makes them all the more effective. And he keeps himself in tremendous shape. A lot of people talk about his lack of size. Sure, he's not a superheavy, but he gets the job done. That's what counts."

---

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



### **EDDIE GRAHAM**

"I've been watching Terry since he turned pro. He's Florida-born and raised, you know. I knew he'd be a star from the first time I saw him work out. He's intense about the sport. I think what he wants right now is to show Volkoff and his Russian sympathizer Darsow that they can't get away with badmouthing America. Terry was always grateful for the opportunities he received. Now he wants to pay back some. He's a good man."

---

Eddie Graham is a former co-holder of the World tag team title, and was a top contender for the NWA World title.

# Billy Jack's Own Story

## "I OWE MY LIFE TO PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING"

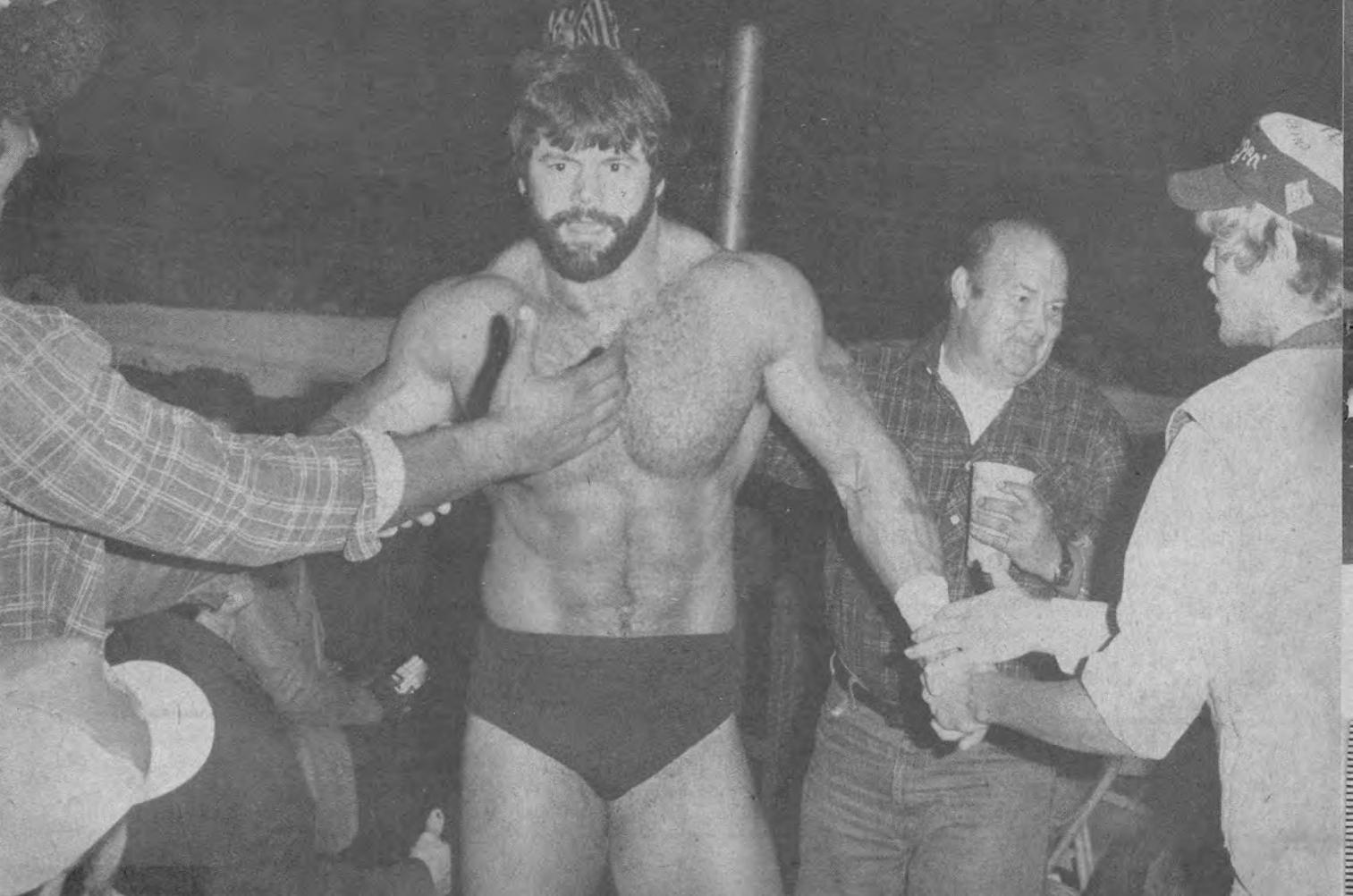
*Photos by Bill Otten*

***In this story, you'll meet a very different Billy Jack. You'll meet  
Billy Jack as he was before he entered professional wrestling.  
After reading this two-part story, which concludes next month,  
you'll understand Billy much better—and you'll know why he  
truly owes his life to professional wrestling***

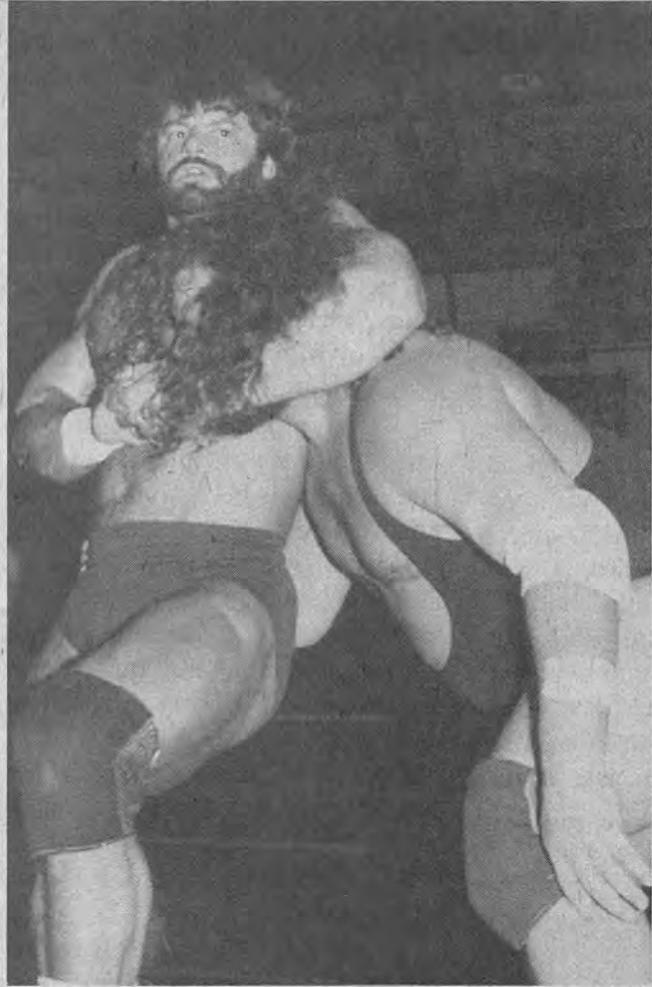
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By Billy Jack

---



The musculature in Billy Jack's arms makes a simple headlock a devastating hold (left). Billy, who spent a lot of time in pool halls as a youth, shows Kabuki his form (below).



WHEN I LOOK back on my younger life, I see that our family was very close. We always seemed to be together camping, playing cards, traveling—we did everything a family could ever want to do.

My dad was a diabetic. He'd take insulin shots every morning, but he'd never complain. And after working 10 hours a day, six days a week, as a painter, he'd always come home with a smile and a hug for his family. My mother always gave him a big kiss and told him she loved him.

My dad's brother, Uncle Red, stayed with us almost all the time. He was like a second father to me.

When I was nine years old, I started to go to the local Police Athletic League Boys Club after school. They had pool, ping pong, chess, checkers, basketball, football—everything a kid could want.

In the sixth grade, at age 11, I led my school in scoring in basket-

ball. I did so again in seventh and eighth grades, and I was a straight-A student.

In eighth grade, at age 13, I was playing basketball at the local community center and this other boy was pushing me around. We started to fight, and the boxing instructor said, "Let's put on the gloves and get into the ring." We did, I beat him up, and the instructor said he thought I had potential.

I went home that day and told my parents I wanted to become a pro boxer and be world champion. This worried my mother, but my father said, "Let the boy try it."

I began training in the ring, running, and lifting weights. I was 14 by this time. After school I'd run cross-country and then train for an hour in the ring. Then I'd go home, do my homework, and lift weights in the garage for an hour before going to bed.

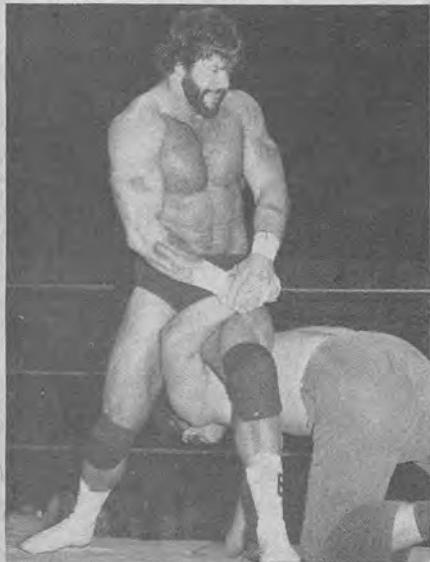
By the time I was 15, I was boxing one or two matches each

month. I was also sparring with Andy Kendall, the number one ranked light heavyweight in the world at one time. I was 6-feet tall and weighed 175 pounds. I was muscular and had great hand speed. I was starting to turn a few heads. My amateur record ended up 35-2.

Then the first of many tragedies hit. Uncle Red was killed in a truck accident in April 1969. This was a big blow to my family. My mother was shocked, and she was having bad headaches for a week after my uncle's funeral. My dad told her to go to the doctor.

When I got home from school that day, nobody was home. But I found a note that said Mom had gone to the hospital. I was scared. My heart pounded. The phone rang, and it was my aunt calling from the hospital. She was with my father. Mom was in a coma. Three days later, she died from a brain tumor.

My father was so broken down he said he'd kill himself. He didn't want to take his insulin shots. He couldn't go home because of the memories. We stayed at my aunt's house, and moved into another



Billy Jack was on his way to becoming a professional boxer when a series of unfortunate incidents altered his life's path. But now Billy has gotten his life together, much to the chagrin of men like Kabuki, whose left arm would not soon recover after this match.

house a month later.

Five months later, my dad's mother passed away. I can remember him holding his head in his hand and crying, "Why me? Why me?"

That was my junior year in high school. I was 16, and I quit school. I started hanging around the wrong people. I would get into fights all the time. I quit boxing. I started losing control of myself.

My dad thought it would be best for me to join the Army. I agreed, and signed up for three years. After nine months, I came home on leave and never returned. I went AWOL for nine months more.

All my dreams were being shattered. I was turning into a bum. I was good for nothing. The Army gave me an undesirable discharge and a six-month sentence in the

stockade for going AWOL.

When I returned home I felt my life was a complete failure. I had no self-esteem.

When I was 20, my father went blind in his right eye. But he still worked every day, and acted like it didn't bother him.

I got a job as a janitor for \$3 an hour, which is all I felt I was worth. After all, I had quit high school, quit the Army, quit boxing—the only thing I didn't quit was lifting weights. It was a way of relieving pressure. Some people drink, some smoke—I chose to lift weights. It was the only thing that kept me going.

When I was 21, I started gambling heavily on the dog races. When I lost, I'd borrow from my dad.

Then I was in a fight that resulted in a fourth-degree assault charge. I was found guilty, but since I had a clean record I was given probation.

At 22, I got in another fight. I was found guilty, this time for harrassment. Once again, I wasn't given any sentence.

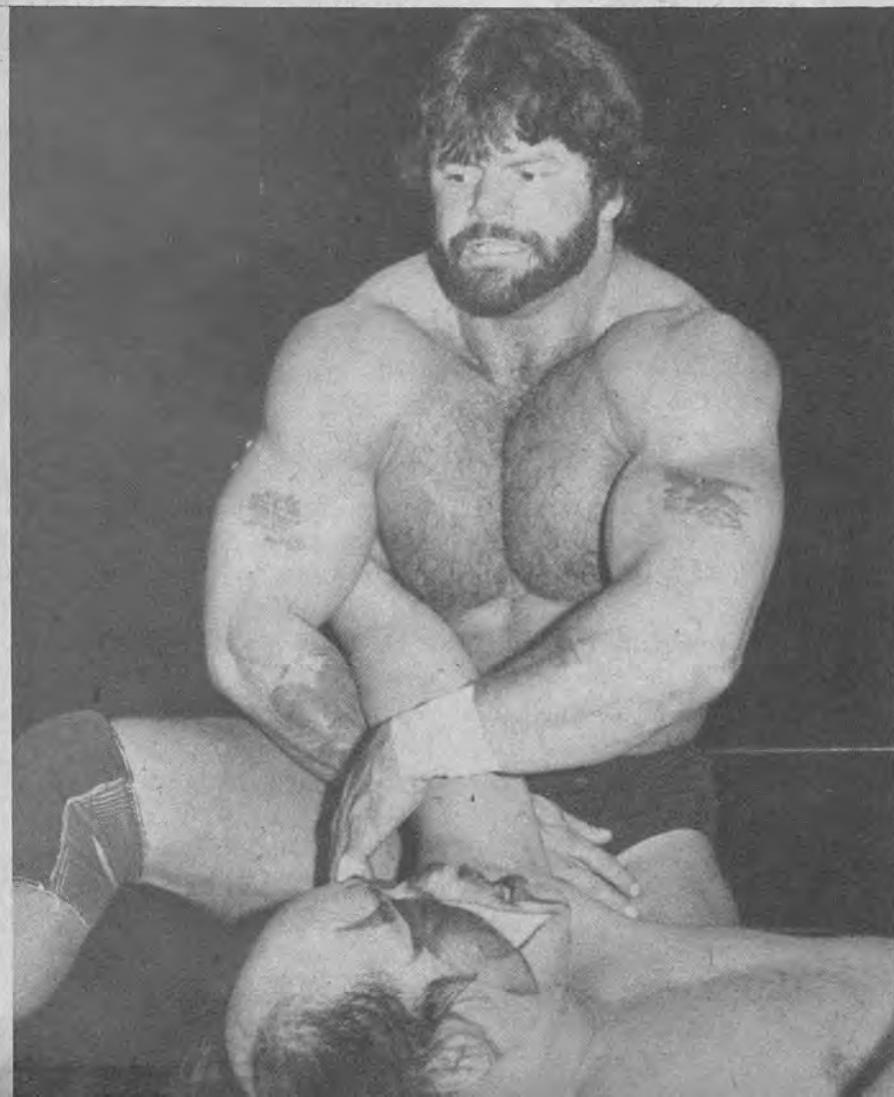
By 23, I had changed jobs three or four times. I was still doing janitorial work because I had no ambition.

Then another punch of tragedy: My dad got a detached retina in his good eye and became completely blind. An operation failed. He would never see again.

Life goes on.

I was involved in another fight when I was 24. I almost killed another man who was trying to rape a woman. I was beating him senseless out of anger. I didn't know when to stop.

I was found guilty of a first-degree assault charge and received a five-year jail sentence. □

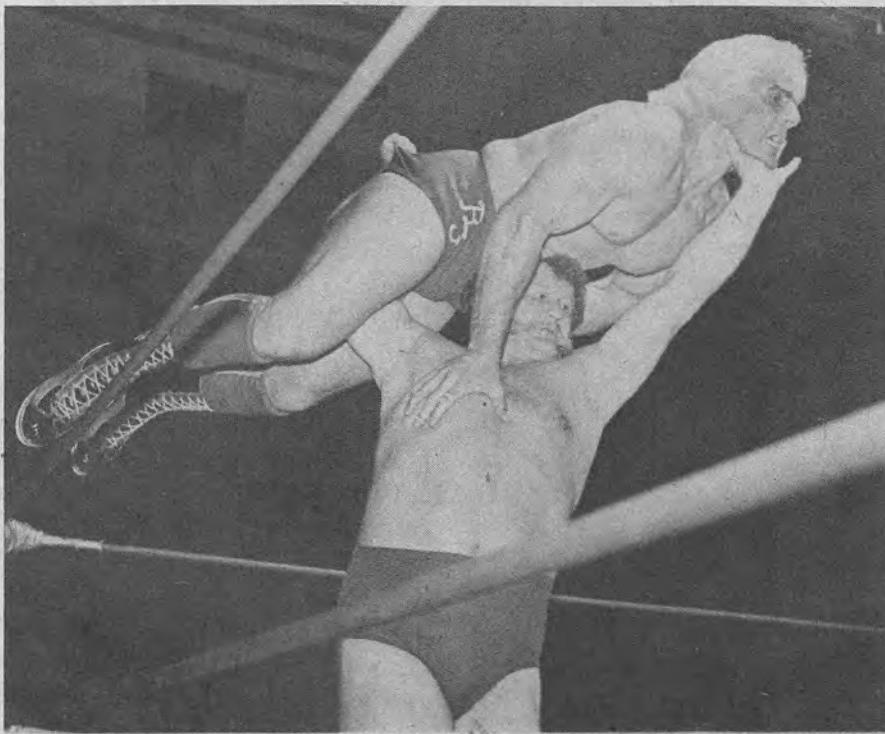


**Next Month: How Billy Jack Was Saved By Professional Wrestling**  
*(To be presented in the July 1984 issue of The Wrestler, on sale May 8.)*

# A Night With No Losers

## FLAIR VS. RACE— FOR CHARITY

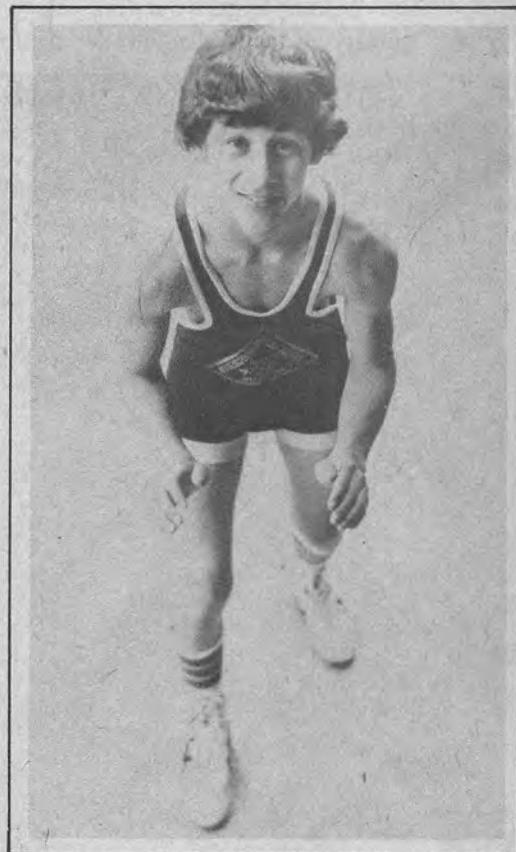
***For one night in Kansas City, fans and wrestlers worked together to help a local high school athlete, Jeff Wicina, who became paralyzed as a result of a football accident. The efforts of Harley and Evon Race brought the fans and the wrestlers together for one night where everyone left a winner***



**W**E TEND TO believe that professional wrestlers have one-track minds. We think that the most important event in their life is their next match. Winning is every-

thing. They dedicate their lives to climbing the ratings, beating the toughest opponents, and ultimately, winning the championship.

We deemphasize their personal



On this night, Flair and Race were wrestling for a lot more than the NWA title (left). They were wrestling for young Jeff Wicina (above), who was paralyzed in a football accident.

lives. In fact, sometimes we try to forget that they have lives outside the ring at all. Pro wrestlers are not machines designed only to battle each other in the ring. They are human beings, despite the hectic schedules, the traveling, and their claims of possessing tunnelvision.

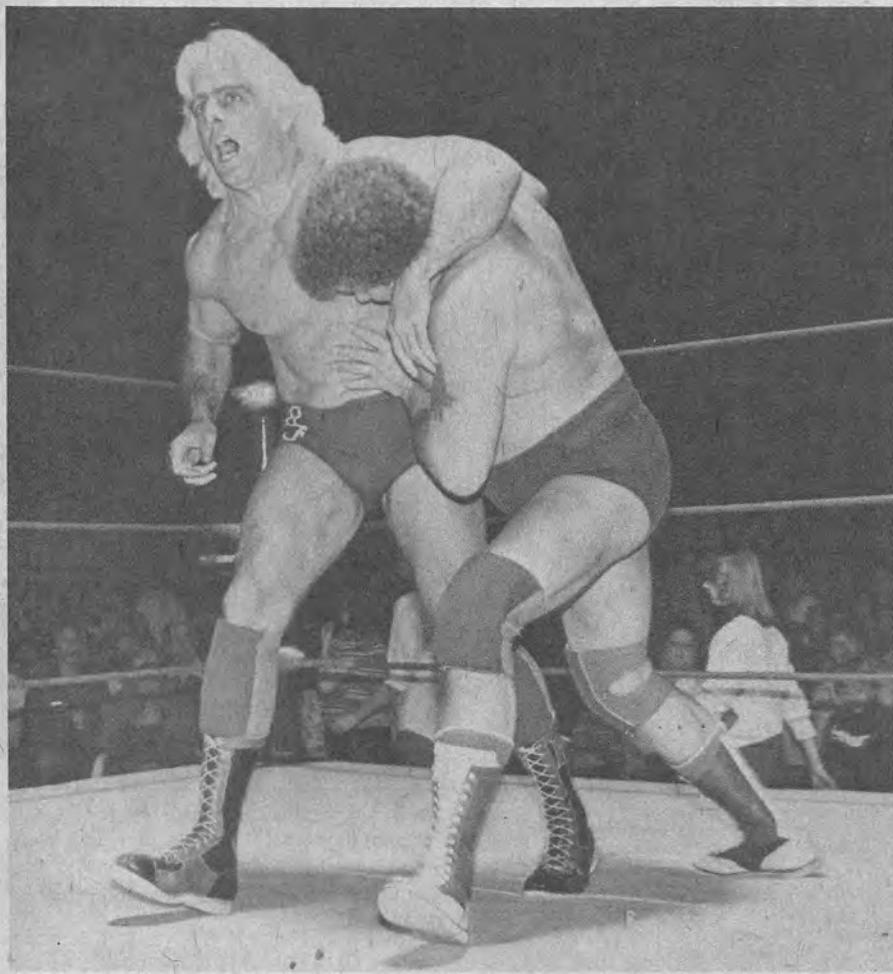
This is a story about a human being named Harley Race. He found a way to use his occupation as a professional wrestler to help a young man who had suffered a life-shattering injury. He has reminded all of us that wrestlers are, and always will be, people first.

\*\*\*

On November 3, 1983, 15-year-old Jeff Wicina was playing on the defensive team of the Bishop Miege High School football team in Kansas City, Kansas. While making a tackle, Jeff stumbled and collided

head-to-head with his opponent. He was rushed to the hospital. Jeff and his family later found out that he was paralyzed from the shoul-

ders down as a result of the accident. It is likely that Jeff might never wrestle or play football again.



Race is about to push Flair toward the ropes as he escapes the NWA champion's headlock (above). Tully Blanchard, whose right hand is bandaged, and Avalanche Tyler, whose left pinkie is broken, both wanted to wrestle on this important night (below).



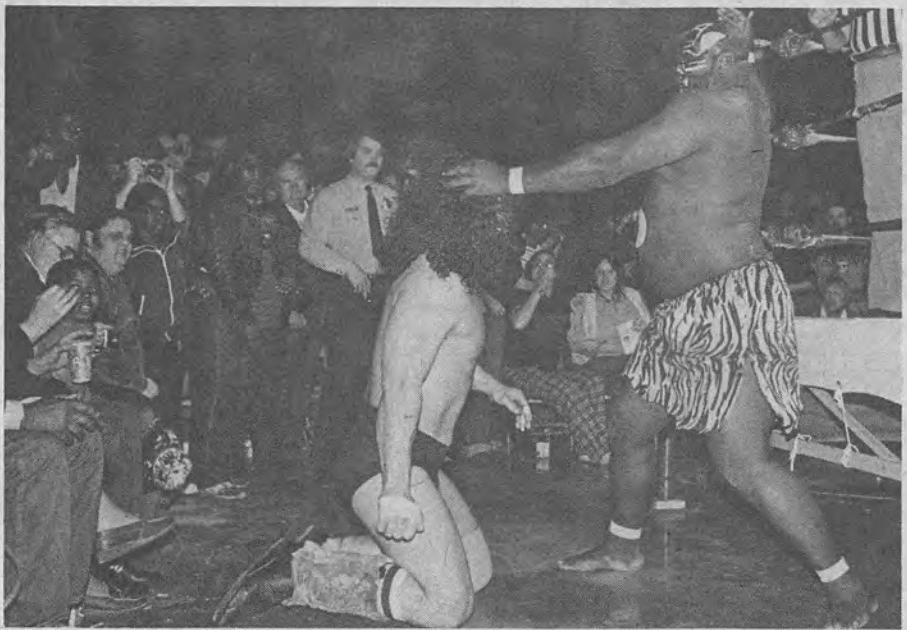
At another high school football game the next day, Harley and Evon Race heard about the accident. They had known Jeff through their 13-year-old son Justin, who wrestled in the same local tournaments as Jeff had. "We were so saddened when we heard about what happened to Jeff," Evon said. "He was such an active boy. All of a sudden, he wouldn't be able to play football, he wouldn't be able to wrestle. More than that, he wouldn't be able to brush his teeth or do any of the things that we do every day."

This was the unfortunate beginning of the rest of Jeff's life. After diagnosis and observation in a local hospital, he was sent to Denver to begin his rehabilitation. "I can't imagine how I would feel if that had been Justin," Race said. "His parents were going through hell. First to have something like this happen to your son, then to have him go off to another state for rehabilitation. On top of all of that, the cost involved in his treatment was going to be tremendous. I wanted to do something for the family. I wanted to be able to help somehow."

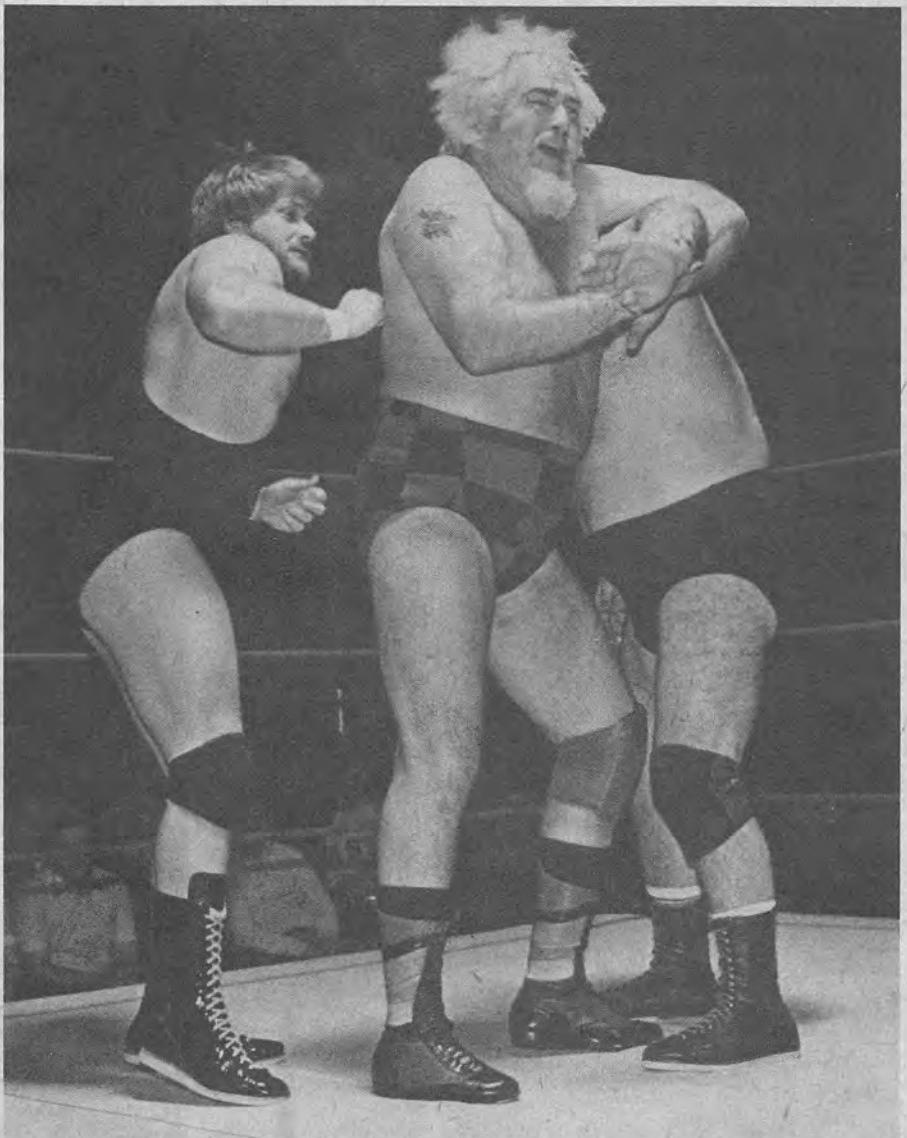
Although they had known Jeff, the Races had to introduce themselves to the rest of the Wicina family. They offered their help, but at first they had no idea of what they could do. Later, Race decided to go to the Kansas City wrestling promoters with the idea of having a "Jeff Wicina Night."

"I thought that we could get some really big names to sign," Race said, "get a whole lot of people into the arena, and then ask them to give a little extra for a good cause. Jeff is a great kid, and his parents are good, honest people. This has been, and is gonna be for a long time to come, a hardship for everyone involved."

A wrestling spectacular was scheduled by the Kansas City pro-



In a match that shared equal time between the ring and the arena floor, Kamala chops away at Bruiser Brody (above). Crazy Luke Graham is backed up by his partner, Doug Vines, as he battles Bulldog Brown (below).



motors to take place at Memorial Hall, and in the main event, Race, a seven-time former NWA World champion, battled the current holder of that title, Ric Flair. In a match for the Central States title, champion Buzz "Avalanche" Tyler opposed challenger Tully Blanchard, and in what was called "The Battle of The Giants," fan favorite Bruiser Brody faced Kamala, the Ugandan Giant.

Also appearing on the card were Luke Graham, Doug Vines, Bulldog Bob Brown, King Cobra, Ron Ritchie, Billy Howard, Tiger Mask, and Scott Ferris.

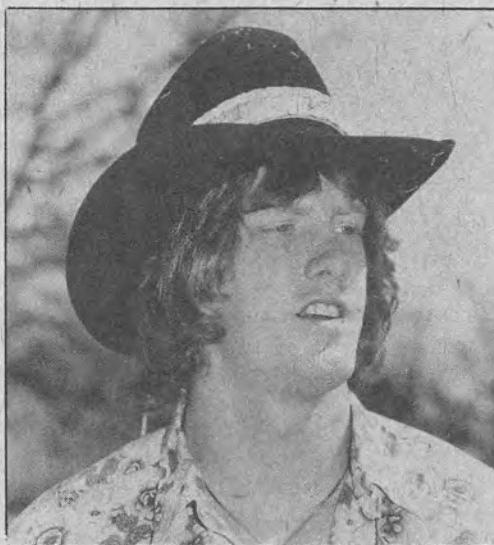
The money collected at the arena has been put into a trust fund for Jeff at the Mid-America Bank, 4700 W. 50th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, 66205. That fund will subsidize the cost of Jeff's treatment and rehabilitation.

Evon said that the event was more successful than they ever thought possible. "I was so proud of the people who came out to the matches that night," Evon said. "They showed that they cared about Jeff, and they showed that they care about kids and families. I'm very proud to call these people my neighbors."

Race recently visited Jeff in Denver, where he is still undergoing rehabilitation. "I have been a professional wrestler for many years," Race continued, "and I have had my share of tough fights, but I have never had to face an opponent like the one Jeff is up against now. He has a long way to go. He has to learn to do everything all over again, the simplest things that we take for granted. It's not gonna to be easy, and he knows it, but he's ready to fight it out. I'm confident that he's gonna make it back. That's just the kind of kid he is. He's become an inspiration to me."

Jeff Wicina is an inspiration to all of us. □

# DAVID VON ERICH



## We'll Never Forget You

By Craig Peters

THE NEWS CAME suddenly and terribly early on the morning of February 10. David Von Erich was found dead in his Tokyo hotel room, the victim of acute enteritis—a severe inflammation of the intestines.

Von Erich was just beginning a three-week tour of Japan. In fact, he hadn't even wrestled in his first match of the tour. Joe Higuchi, a referee for All-Japan Pro Wrestling Association, discovered Von Erich in his room at the Takanawa Tobu Hotel. An ambulance was called, but police said the medical report indicated that Von Erich had died in his sleep an hour before the call was made.

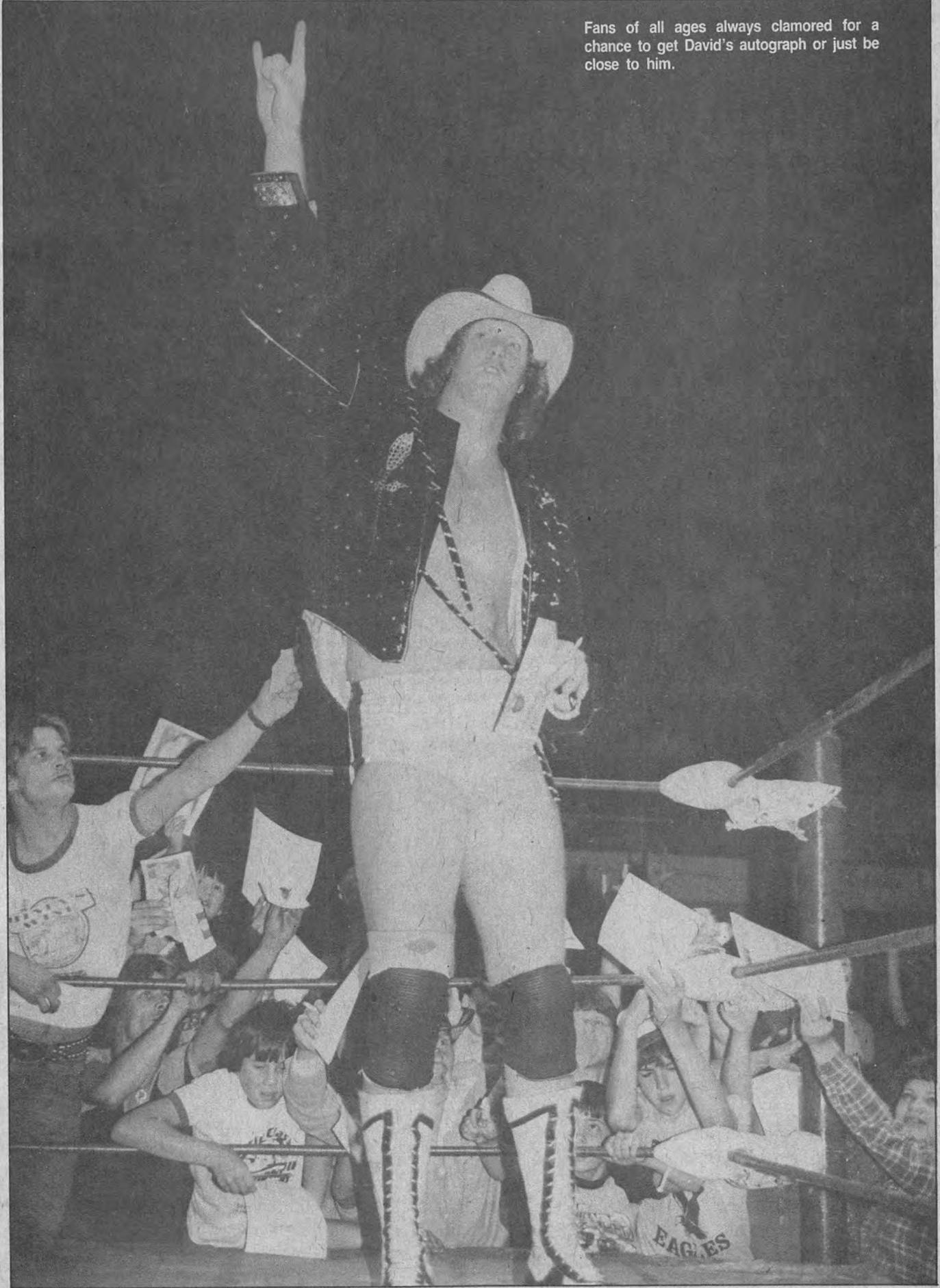
David was only 25 years old when he died, but in those 25 years he rose to the stature of hero not only in his home state of Texas, but in the hearts

of wrestling fans across the country and around the world. The weeks following the news of his death saw thousands of cards and letters from all over the world expressing their sympathy sent to the Von Erich family.

David was born in Lake Dallas, Texas, on July 22, 1958, the second of five Von Erich sons. He was a basketball and football star at Lake Dallas High School and attended North Texas State on a basketball scholarship. After a year of college, David quit to become a professional wrestler. His debut match took place in the summer of 1977 against Gary Hart.

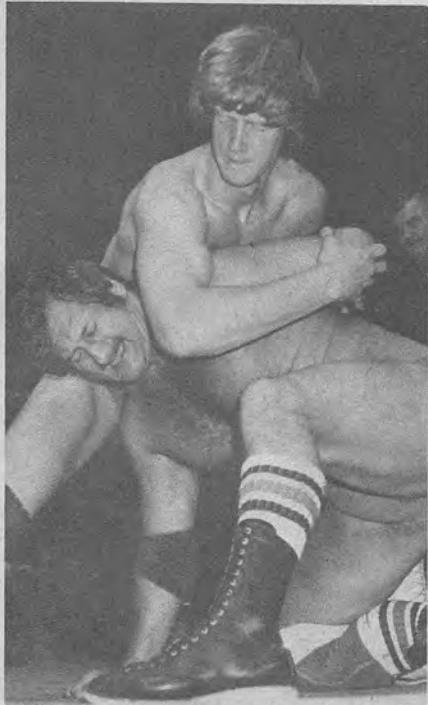
"I really don't know how I could have avoided professional wrestling as a career," David said in an interview shortly after his debut. "I had grown up in a wrestling atmosphere. My fa-

Fans of all ages always clamored for a chance to get David's autograph or just be close to him.





Gino Hernandez is lifted off his feet by a Von Erich elbowdrive (above). David gave away years of experience to both Boris Malenko (left) and Bill White (below) in 1978, but he still managed to win those matches.



ther—well, everyone had heard about Fritz Von Erich for years. Wrestling is a part of my family, and I've always been a good athlete. It seemed natural for me to become a wrestler. Besides, Kevin needs someone to team with!"

Kevin was the first of the Von Erich

brothers to wrestle professionally, and David soon followed. In his debut match, David surprised a lot of people, including opponent Hart and the man Hart managed at the time, Mark Lewin (who was then involved in a major feud with Kevin).



Five-year-old David is flanked by Kevin on his right and Kerry (above). David, a sophomore defensive tackle at Lake Dallas High, after an exhausting game (below).



Hart felt that David would be a pushover in that match, and claimed that he would be able to beat David in five minutes. David responded by saying that if he could beat Hart in five minutes, he wanted to wrestle Lewin.

(Text continues on page 39)

## THE LOSS OF DAVID VON ERICH:



### TRIBUTES FROM FANS AND FRIENDS

In recent years, David's star shone more and more brightly in the wrestling sky as he added title after title to his list of achievements. It seemed to me that David was the Von Erich to watch, the one who would finally add the Von Erich name to those of Flair, Race, Funk, Kiniski, and others on the roster of NWA World champions. It is now up to Kevin, Kerry, Mike, and eventually Chris to carry on and give honor to the Von Erich name. I think I speak for the majority when I say that it will be difficult to see any of the Von Erich brothers step into the ring on TV or in person and not think of the one no longer with us.

—Rob Moore, Greenville, TX

I hate to be trying to express myself during unfavorable times, but David, Kevin, Kerry, and I started lifting weights and training together while they were still amateurs years ago in Lake Dallas. Because of my long acquaintance from childhood with their father, Fritz Von Erich, I was able to become a professional wrestler and have been for 11 years now. David was like a brother and a student and a close friend of mine, and I've known him all my life, and it just seems like such a terrible thing that he has to depart this life at such an early age and leave everybody behind that loved him the most.

—Skip "Sweet Brown Sugar" Young, professional wrestler

I would like the Von Erich family to know how very sorry I am for them. Losing someone close to you is very sad. David's death has been a shock to us all, and I would like the Von Erich family to know how very much I love them and that my prayers are with them.

—Deanna Waldrup, Jacksonville, FL

When I first came to Texas, it was Fritz Von Erich who gave me a break to start in this fabulous sport. I had the fine privilege to know a great athlete like David, and I had the privilege of starting in my career the same time David did. David laced his first pair of boots for his first match probably no more than two weeks before I did.

—Don Diamond, professional wrestler

Ever since I heard about the death of David Von Erich it hasn't been the same. I just about cried when I read about it in the paper. All my sympathy goes to the Von Erich family.

—Tommy Mazzuchelli, Marietta, GA

When I first came to Texas about 13 years ago, the boys were still going to school, playing basketball and football. I saw them working out and training. Harley Race came to Dallas late in 1977 to wrestle in a non-title match, and leaflets were passed out for the people to vote who they wanted to see wrestle the champion, and it was David. It was unusual, because he was so young. And he surprised Harley when he wrestled him to a 30-minute draw.

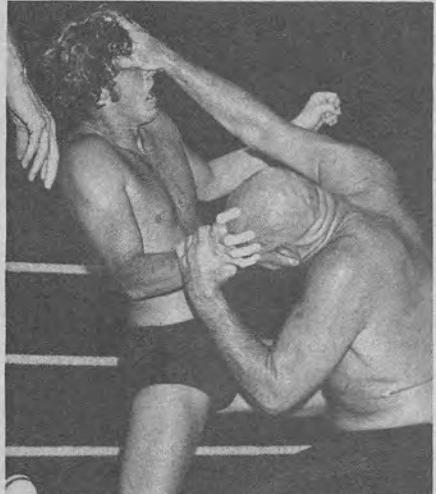
—Bronco Lubich, Texas wrestling referee

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the Von Erich family, for they have suffered a great loss. They have lost a son, a brother, a husband, and a great friend. We can always keep his memory alive by thinking of him every once in a while.

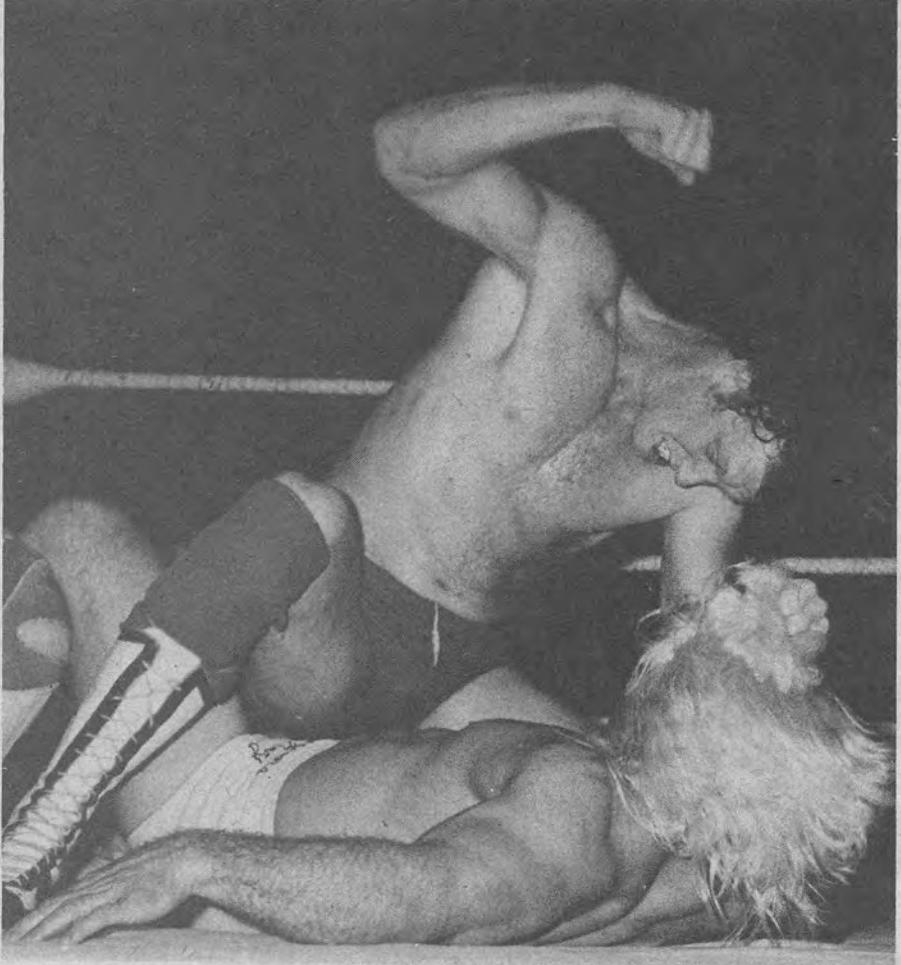
The memory of David Von Erich will remain in the hearts of fans as long as they live. They will remember the way he was and the way he was loved by so many people. We will also remember what a great person he was. The Lord has a reason for everything he does and he has seen fit to take our loved one home. I hope that people all over the world will remember him and keep the memory alive. And to his family I would like to say this:

Life is like a beautiful flower. It is planted and then it grows into a beautiful blossom and then eventually it is plucked or it fades away and dies. David I'm sure would want you to lead happy lives and not let the sorrow of his death get in the way.

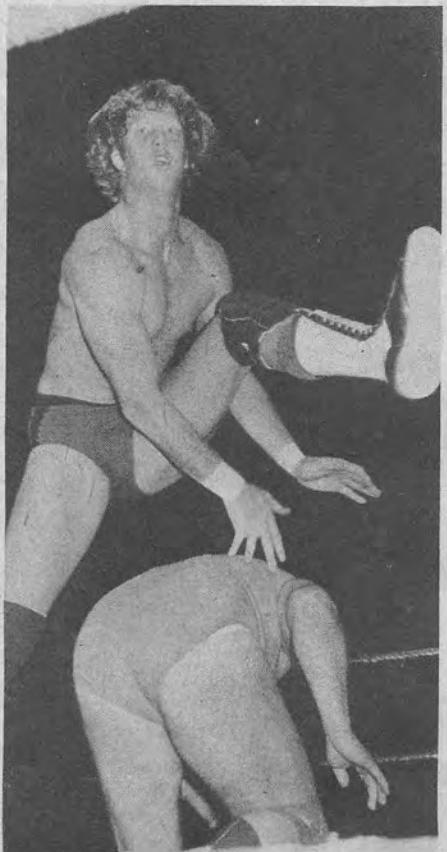
—Krystal Dean, Holden, LA



Von Erich and Baron Von Raschke engaged in a classic battle of claws in 1980 (above). Another classic match in David's career, a scientific encounter with Rocky Johnson in 1981 (below).



Von Erich gave it his all in NWA World title matches against Ric Flair (above) and Harley Race (below), but he came up just short. The agile Von Erich leaps over a charging Davey O'Hannon in David's only Madison Square Garden appearance, in 1979 (right).



David beat Hart very quickly and went on to beat Lewin as well!

That incident ignited a feud between Hart and the Von Erichs that lasted for years. Hart brought many wrestlers to Texas over that time to try and run the Von Erichs out of the state. Bruiser Brody, John Studd, Gino Hernandez, The Great Kabuki, The Spoiler, and Ernie Ladd were just a few of the men that Hart sent in against David and his brothers.

David's excellence in Texas soon catapulted him to the top of the NWA ratings, and he found himself a perennial contender for the NWA World

title. He wrestled for that title against Harley Race and Ric Flair. Though he never won the World title, he did succeed in winning several regional singles and tag team titles during his short career.

In 1979, David and Kevin combined to defeat the team of Bruiser Brody and Gino Hernandez for the American tag team belts. Two years later, David won the Texas State heavyweight championship from Hernandez.

With his brother Kevin, David also held the U.S. tag team title, the World Class tag team belts, and the All-Asian tag team belts (defeating the team of

Shohei "Giant" Baba and Jumbo Tsuruta).

With brothers Kevin and Kerry, David feuded with The Freebirds over the last couple of years, with the World Class Six-Man tag team championship changing hands between the two sides several times.

Alone, David would go on to hold, among other titles, the Texas championship four times, the Southern title (defeating Jack Brisco), and the United National belt (defeating Michael Hayes).

David also defeated Ric Flair on September 16, 1983, for the Missouri

(Continued on page 62)

## PERSONAL MESSAGES FROM THE VON ERICH FAMILY TO YOU

**Kevin Von Erich:** There were no brothers as close as me, Dave, and Keny. We grew up in the backwoods of east Texas. We were just country boys. Even when we were kids, and to the day he died, we all felt like one. What I mean is that it didn't matter, for example, which one of us might win the world title. If one of us got it, we all had it. There was no jealousy.

People ask me and Kerry how we can go on wrestling now. At first I thought "never again." But then I began looking into my spiritual strength. I realized that David is not dead. He has just gone to where Jesus is. It's like we change planes, or go from one car to another. He just went to Jesus. My family members are very strong Christians. We are given scriptures and you would not believe how accurate the scriptures are for dealing with the situation with David and about other things in our lives. It is truly wonderful.

Dave loved all his fans. He was a cowboy. He would give 100 percent in his matches and in everything in his life. If he could have given more than that, rest assured he would have. He had a rebellious streak in him, like most cowboys do, but he never let it get the best of him. He would never sacrifice his fans or matches for it. He also loved when the fans would come over to him and tell him what they felt. He really loved 'em all.

**Kerry Von Erich:** I want people to know he is not gone forever. If you believe in Jesus you know that we will see him in heaven. The Lord says one day is 1,000 years and 1,000 years is one day. So to Dave, he is already looking down at us. If you believe, you know he is not gone. We have great Christian friends who all share that

belief with us. Our mom gave us religion early in our lives. She saved us. She had us ask the Lord to come into our hearts.

Fans, thank you for loving him. Keep on loving him. With you, we realized we had the largest family in the world. We love you all. I also want to mention that Kevin and I will win the World belt in David's memory. Our drive is stronger now than ever.

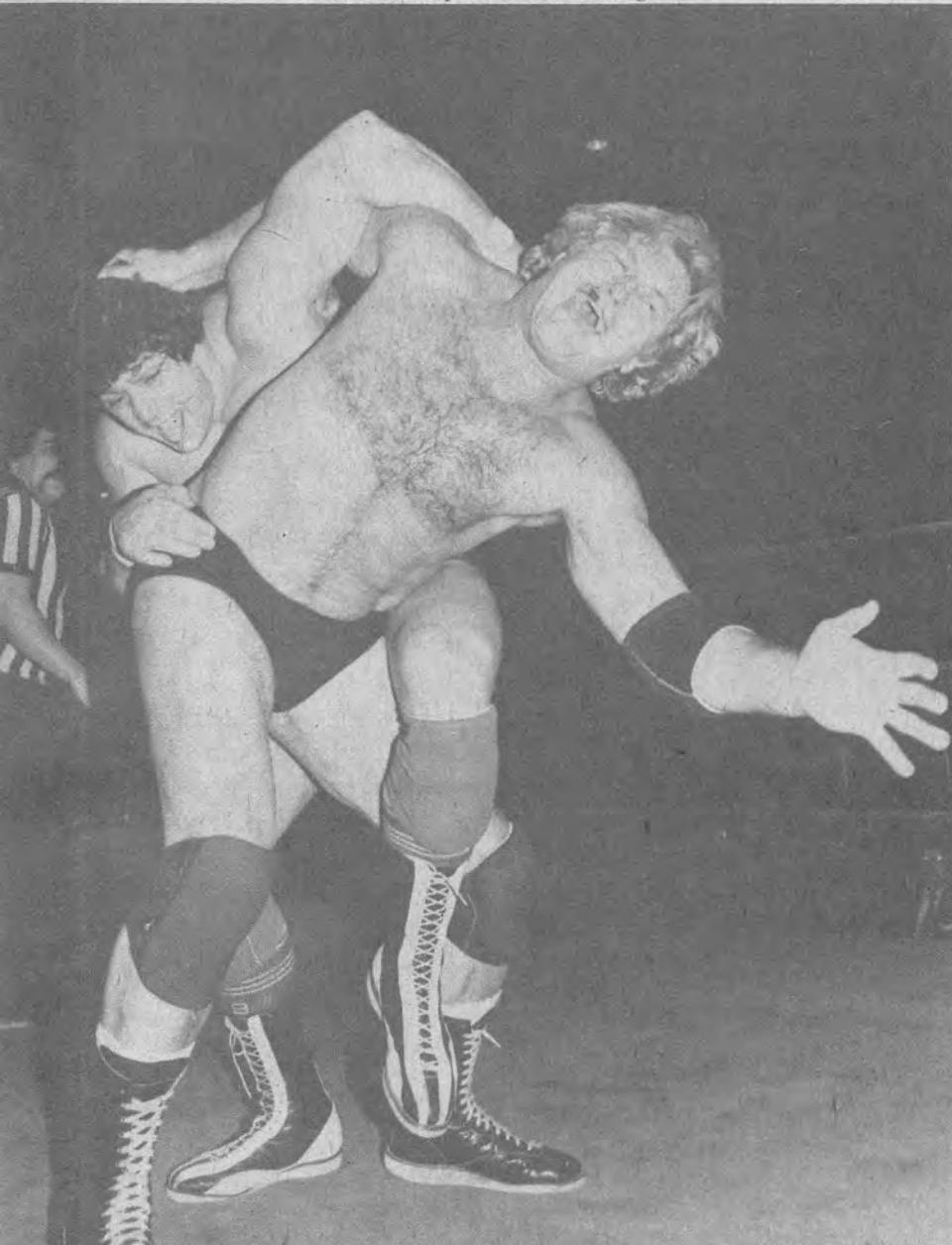
**Tricia Von Erich:** David loved all his fans. I was so happy to see all the wonderful fans and friends who turned out to honor David. I have never in my life felt such a strong feeling of devotion and love from so many people at the same time. The entire Von Erich family loves you all. We cannot put into words how we feel about all the cards and letters you have sent to us. We are certain that you will continue to keep David's memory alive forever, and for that we thank you deeply.

**Mike & Chris Von Erich:** We don't know what we can add to what Kevin, Kerry, and Tricia have already said. We certainly feel the same way. We always knew how much everyone loved David. We just want to add our thanks to the people who have added their support in these recent weeks.

*(Editor's note: Fritz and Doris Von Erich have asked us to express their gratitude to the fans of the Von Erich family for their love and support during this difficult time. As of press time, however, they were unavailable for further comment.)*

# Nick Bockwinkel vs. Dino Bravo: MAGNIFICENCE IN MONTREAL

*Photos courtesy Montreal Wrestling*



[Editor's note: Shortly after this story was filed, Nick Bockwinkel lost the AWA World title to Jumbo Tsuruta in Tokyo, Japan. For further details, see "What's Happening," on page 8.]

**N**O ONE HAS to tell a veteran athlete when he's getting stale. So when Bobby Heenan suggested Nick Bockwinkel watch a videotape of a recent match of Bockwinkel's, the wrestler said it wasn't necessary. There was nothing he wanted to see on it.

Bockwinkel had known for weeks what was happening. By concentrating on the two or three top contenders for his AWA belt, the champion had fallen into a rut. His tactics were becoming predictable and his execution sluggish. He was keeping his championship by lesser and lesser margins. If this kept up, he'd soon be depending on luck to see him through. Champions who depend on luck are quickly ex-champions.

So Heenan, Bockwinkel's manager, never showed the videotape to the wrestler. Instead, he sat across from Bockwinkel in Nick's study and waited for Nick to say something. Bockwinkel stared straight across at his manager and intoned, "Dino Bravo."

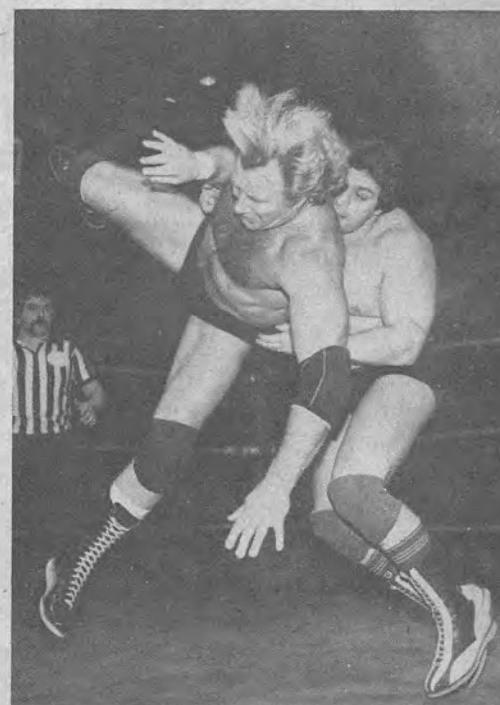
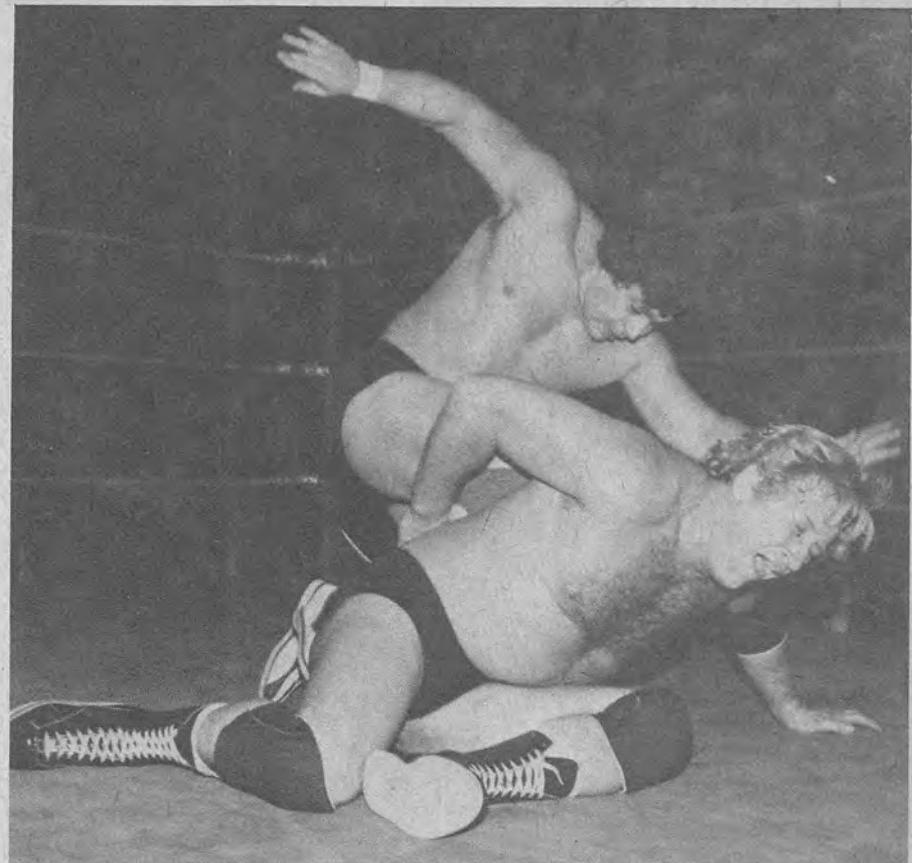
***Love him or hate him, Nick Bockwinkel has always been regarded as one of the most intelligent champions in wrestling history. Then why would he insist on wrestling Dino Bravo, a man whose style gives him more trouble than just about any other wrestler, when Bravo was not even a mandatory defense?***

"Without saying anything, Heenan put a contract on Bockwinkel's desk. It had Bravo's signature already on it. As soon as Bockwinkel signed, the match would be officially scheduled for Montreal. Bockwinkel's smile was so tight that it looked as if it hurt to move his facial muscles. He signed.

For Nick Bockwinkel, wrestling Dino Bravo is like taking distasteful medicine. It's something Bockwinkel must do but wishes he didn't have to. Dino pushes Bockwinkel to the champion's limits. More than once Nick has escaped with his title barely intact. Several of those times Bravo might have become AWA champion if it weren't for Heenan's interference.

When Bockwinkel signs a match against Bravo, you can bet it's because Nick needs to do it. He never wants to wrestle Bravo.

Dino Bravo plants a knee into Bockwinkel's back (above). Dino avoids a Bockwinkel dropkick (below left) and scores a takedown (below right). Trapped in an abdominal stretch (opposite page), Bockwinkel must try to remember all the good that comes out of wrestling Bravo.



Bravo, of course, is always delighted to get a chance at Bockwinkel. Not only does Dino long for the AWA World heavyweight championship, but the sweetest part of all would be to take it from Bockwinkel. To see the tricky Bockwinkel suffer the sight of Dino

waving the AWA belt over his head would be Dino's dream come true. Dino also knows the only reason Bockwinkel will wrestle him is for Nick to regain his championship edge. That makes Dino's task harder than any other challenger's.

The night of the match, Bock-

winkel looked better than he had in months. Every nerve was alive. Even in the dressing room he moved with the grace of a stalking animal. Never was a man so anxious and ready for combat. Heenan never looked happier.

(Continued on page 52)

# Beyond the Squared Circle



Top women's contender Susan Starr shops with her mother for a new pair of boots.



Tommy Rich signs the cover of the Spring edition of *Sports Review Wrestling Annual* for one of his fans in Baltimore.



Eddie Gilbert takes a look at some old pictures of himself during a visit to our photo warehouse.



As long as photographer Floyd See doesn't change employers or his name, he will never forget his license plate identification. Floyd takes pictures for *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, *The Wrestler*, and their sister publications.



Dory Funk Jr., an astronomy buff, observes the heavens through his telescope.



Handsome Jimmy Valiant's personal hair stylist is his wife, Felicia.



Manager Gary Hart informs Ernie Ladd of his upcoming schedule of matches in the Mid-Atlantic area.



The Wrestler's Production Chief, Karl Hlavac, drove Carlos Colon back to the airport after his visit our New York office.



Billy Jack wins over a fan at a young age. The infant is named Amanda Christine, and she's the first born to our photographer, Duane Long, and his wife, Janice.

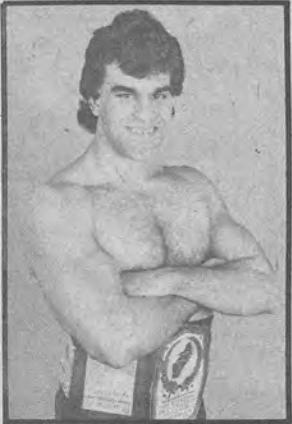


Brett Sawyer gets close with a fan at the Johnstown War Memorial in Pennsylvania.



Gentleman Ken Timbs does pushups in the dressing room before a match in Warren, Ohio. Timbs believes that a wrestler must be properly warmed up before he gets into the ring.

# THIS MONTH IN...



A special *Inside Wrestling* examination asks the question: Did **ANGELO MOSCA JR.** win the Mid-Atlantic title too soon?



NWA champion **RIC FLAIR** takes the defensive as **MIKE ROTONDO** stands poised to take his world title

## PLUS . . .

An unfair conspiracy in Georgia against **TED DIBIASE**? . . . **SGT. SLAUGHTER** and **THE IRON SHEIK** square off "One on One" . . . **MR. WRESTLING II** is profiled . . . **JIM CORNETTE** is featured in an exclusive "Hotseat" interview

All this and much more . . . in the June 1984 issue of *Inside Wrestling*  
**ON SALE NOW!**



**JIMMY VALIANT**'s personal message to you says that "It's time for you to boogie woogie!"



It's a scientific nightmare as **THE FABULOUS ONES** face off against **THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**

## PLUS . . .

A spectacular FULL-COLOR centerfold pinup of **PRECIOUS PAUL ELLERING** . . . Learn why **JUNKYARD DOG** fears **GEN. SKANDOR AKBAR** more than he fears **KAMALA** . . . An exclusive "Press Conference" with **BARRY WINDHAM** . . . Find out how **SHEIK ADNAN AL-KAISSIE**'s broken leg almost crippled **GREG GAGNE**

All this and much more . . . in the July 1984 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*  
**ON SALE APRIL 24!**

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.**

**A Guide To Some Changes:** This month, we take a closeup look at the major shifts of wrestling's biggest names in three of the most subjective ratings categories:

**Top 10:** Nick Bockwinkel drops out of the top 10 as a result of his AWA World title loss to Jumbo Tsuruta, who enters the category at the number eight spot ... Carlos Colon rises a notch from seven to six as a result of his stepped-up schedule of World Wrestling Council Universal title defenses ... Dick Slater jumps two notches to number seven in the wake of several major defenses of his U.S. title and some nearly successful matches against NWA World champion Ric Flair.

**Most Popular:** As Hulk Hogan begins to establish himself more firmly in the WWF area, his popularity has grown as well. As a result, he moves up three spots to number three ... Also as the result of his WWF Intercontinental title victory over Magnificent Muraco, Tito Santana enters the Most Popular ratings in the number seven spot ... "Boogie Woogie Man" Jimmy Valiant has received enormous attention following an incident in which Paul Jones and The Assassins shaved off his beard. Fan response to Valiant has been enormous, and he breaks into this category at an astounding number four.

**Most Hated:** Although Ted DiBiase has lost the National heavyweight title to Brad Armstrong, his continuing campaign against the Armstrongs, Tommy Rich, Mr. R (whoever appears under that mask on any given day), and the rest of the Georgia area fan favorites has been enough to allow him to remain in the number one

spot ... King Kong Bundy was ranked fifth in this category last month, but his feud with Precious Paul Ellering and his Legion of Doom has dropped him out of this category completely. Indeed, Bundy was a close runner-up for the number 10 spot in the Most Popular ratings ... The Iron Sheik's feud with Sgt. Slaughter over the issue of American patriotism has bolstered Sheik's standing two notches in this category—he is now rated sixth.

**A Dip Into The Mailbag:** The following question comes from Louis Miraglia of Bronx, New York: "In a recent issue, the Top 10 ratings had Dusty Rhodes ranked at number three when he is not even a champion. When he is only ranked number three in Florida, why is he ranked number three in the world? Also, I believe Andre the Giant shouldn't be ranked second, because he won't wrestle any champions."

Louis raises two questions that get to the very heart of how the Top 10 ratings are determined.

The Top 10 is determined by the editors of the magazine, and they are the most important ratings in wrestling. These rankings are made on the basis of ability, quality of opposition, and won-lost records for the past month. There are three non-champions in the Top 10 this month: Andre the Giant, Dusty Rhodes, and Kerry Von Erich. But over the past month, they have demonstrated a level of excellence that demands they be recognized as three of the best wrestlers in the world. Andre the Giant, in particular, has continued to maintain an undefeated record that makes him second only to the NWA World champion himself—Ric Flair.

As for the rankings of Dusty Rhodes, Mr. Miraglia brings up a good point. But again, the fact that Dusty is ranked third in Florida has no bearing on whether he should or shouldn't be considered for eligibility in the Top 10.

It should also be pointed out that Dusty competes in areas other than Florida, including the Mid-Atlantic and the St. Louis areas. (You'll remember that in last month's "Ratings Analysis" closeup on St. Louis, Dusty was ranked number five in that area.)

Dusty doesn't spend enough time in Florida over the course of a month to warrant his being rated higher than number three (or in this month's ratings, number four), but the fact that he has a successful record not only in Florida but in several other areas of the country as well is enough to place him solidly in the Top 10.

**The Address For Mail:** We welcome any and all questions, suggestions, complaints, ideas, and reactions to our ratings system. Send your letters to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *The Wrestler*, Box 48; Rockville Centre; New York 11571. □



Carlos Colon



Hulk Hogan



Ted DiBiase

# OFFI WRESTLIN

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Dino Bravo



Kerry Von Erich

## TOP 10

- 1—RIC FLAIR  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—ANDRE THE GIANT  
497, Grenoble, France
- 3—HARLEY RACE  
253, Kansas City, MO
- 4—DUSTY RHODES  
302, Austin, TX
- 5—HULK HOGAN  
320, Venice Beach, CA

- 6—CARLOS COLON  
238, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
- 7—DICK SLATER  
235, Tampa, FL
- 8—JUMBO TSURUTA  
240, Tokyo, Japan
- 9—DINO BRAVO  
248, Montreal, Quebec
- 10—KERRY VON ERICH  
251, Denton, TX

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—COWBOY BOB ORTON & DON KERNODLE  
*NWA World tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 481 pounds
- \* 2—KEN PATERA & CRUSHER BLACKWELL  
*AWA World tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 730 pounds
- 3—THE ROAD WARRIORS  
*National tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 4—MR. WRESTLING II & MAGNUM T.A.  
*Mid-South tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 477 pounds
- 5—SUPER DESTROYERS I & II  
*World Class American tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 542 pounds
- 6—ROCKY JOHNSON & TONY ATLAS  
*WWF tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 491 pounds
- 7—ELIJAH AKEEM & KAREEM MUHAMMAD  
*Mid-Southern tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 578 pounds
- 8—RON BASS & BLACK BART  
*U.S. tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 546 pounds
- 9—TONY PARISI & GINO BRITO  
*Canadian International tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 493 pounds
- 10—KING TONGA & EL GRAN APOLLO  
*World Wrestling Council tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 482 pounds

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—ANDRE THE GIANT  
497, Grenoble, France
- 2—DUSTY RHODES  
302, Austin, TX
- 3—HULK HOGAN  
320, Venice Beach, CA
- 4—JIMMY VALLIANT  
251, New York, NY
- 5—JUNKYARD DOG  
260, New Orleans, LA
- 6—KERRY VON ERICH  
251, Denton, TX
- 7—TITO SANTANA  
245, Mission, TX
- 8—MIKE ROTONDO  
245, Syracuse, NY
- 9—MAGNUM T.A.  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 10—ICEMAN PARSONS  
242, St. Louis, MO

## MOST HATED

- 1—TED DiBIASE  
247, Omaha, NE
- 2—DICK SLATER  
235, Tampa, FL
- 3—RON BASS  
285, Pampa, TX
- 4—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF  
345, Siberia, Russia
- 5—HACKSAW REED  
249, Kansas City, MO
- 6—THE IRON SHEIK  
262, Teheran, Iran
- 7—CRUSHER DARSOW  
303, Thief River Falls, MN
- 8—JIM GARVIN  
235, Tampa, FL
- 9—KEN PATERA  
256, Portland, OR
- 10—NICK BOCKWINDEL  
245, Beverly Hills, CA

## NWA

- World Champion:*  
**RIC FLAIR**  
 243, Minneapolis, MN  
**1—DICK SLATER**  
 235, Tampa, FL  
**2—BRAD ARMSTRONG**  
 223, Pensacola, FL  
**3—HARLEY RACE**  
 253, Kansas City, MO  
**4—RON BASS**  
 285, Pampa, TX  
**5—ANGELO MOSCA JR.**  
 234, Caledou, Ontario  
**6—KENDO NAGASAKI**  
 248, Singapore  
**7—CARLOS COLON**  
 238, Bayamon, Puerto Rico  
**8—CHRIS ADAMS**  
 225, Stratford on Avon, England  
**9—DORY FUNK JR.**  
 244, Amarillo, TX  
**10—RIP OLIVER**  
 245, Tampa, FL

## AWA

- World Champion:*  
**JUMBO TSURUTA**  
 240, Tokyo, Japan  
**1—NICK BOCKWINDEL**  
 245, Beverly Hills, CA  
**2—BLACKJACK LANZA**  
 260, Laredo, TX  
**3—MAD DOG VACHON**  
 225, Algeria  
**4—BRAD RHEINGANS**  
 248, Minneapolis, MN  
**5—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**  
 310, Sweetwater, TX  
**6—JERRY LAWLER**  
 234, Memphis, TN  
**7—MR. SAITO**  
 247, Osaka, Japan  
**8—KEN PATERA**  
 256, Portland, OR  
**9—JESSE VENTURA**  
 270, Muscle Beach, CA  
**10—CRUSHER BLACKWELL**  
 474, Stone Mountain, GA

# CIAL G RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

## WWF

- Champion:**  
**HULK HOGAN**  
 320, Venice Beach, CA  
**1—PAUL ORNDORFF**  
 253, Brandon, FL  
**2—TITO SANTANA**  
 245, Mission, TX  
**3—THE IRON SHEIK**  
 262, Teheran, Iran  
**4—SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
 310, Paris Island, SC  
**5—JIMMY SNUKA**  
 250, Fiji Islands  
**6—MAGNIFICENT MURACO**  
 262, Sunset Beach, HI  
**7—GREG VALENTINE**  
 243, Seattle, WA  
**8—BOB BACKLUND**  
 242, Princeton, MN  
**9—MASKED SUPERSTAR**  
 282, Atlanta, GA  
**10—DAVID SHULTZ**  
 265, Memphis, TN

## GEORGIA

- 1—BRAD ARMSTRONG  
223, Pensacola, FL
- 2—TED DIBIASE  
247, Omaha, NE
- 3—JAKE ROBERTS  
243, Baton Rouge, LA
- 4—MR. R  
238, parts unknown
- 5—KING KONG BUNDY  
420, Atlantic City, NJ
- 6—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF  
345, Siberia, Russia
- 7—RONNIE GARVIN  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 8—THE SPOILER  
266, parts unknown
- 9—PEZ WHATLEY  
238, El Paso, TX
- 10—TOMMY ROGERS  
222, St. Petersburg, FL

## FLORIDA

- 1—RON BASS  
285, Pampa, TX
- 2—KENDO NAGASAKI  
248, Singapore
- 3—BARRY WINDHAM  
230, Sweetwater, TX
- 4—DUSTY RHODES  
302, Austin, TX
- 5—MIKE ROTONDO  
245, Syracuse, NY
- 6—BILLY JACK  
245, Portland, OR
- 7—KEVIN SULLIVAN  
235, Boston, MA
- 8—ONE MAN GANG  
402, Chicago, IL
- 9—MIKE GRAHAM  
232, Tampa, FL
- 10—HECTOR GUERRERO  
243, Mexico

## MID-ATLANTIC

- 1—DICK SLATER  
235, Tampa, FL
- 2—ANGELO MOSCA JR.  
234, Caledou, Ontario
- 3—JIMMY VALIANT  
251, New York, NY
- 4—WAHOO McDANIEL  
260, Midland, TX
- 5—DORY FUNK JR.  
244, Amarillo, TX
- 6—ANGELO MOSCA  
309, Caledou, Ontario
- 7—ERNE LADD  
354, Houston, TX
- 8—MARK YOUNGBLOOD  
230, Amarillo, TX
- 9—RUFUS R. JONES  
287, Boston, MA
- 10—JUNKYARD DOG  
260, New Orleans, LA

## WORLD CLASS

- 1—CHRIS ADAMS  
225, Stratford on Avon, England
- 2—KERRY VON ERICH  
251, Denton, TX
- 3—JIM GARVIN  
235, Tampa, FL
- 4—KEVIN VON ERICH  
254, Denton, TX
- 5—ICEMAN PARSONS  
242, St. Louis, MO
- 6—SUPER DESTROYER I  
271, parts unknown
- 7—SUPER DESTROYER II  
271, parts unknown
- 8—JOHNNY MANTELL  
230, Decatur, TX
- 9—KAMALA  
360, Uganda
- 10—MIKE VON ERICH  
220, Denton, TX

## MID-SOUTH

- 1—JUNKYARD DOG  
260, New Orleans, LA
- 2—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF  
345, Siberia, Russia
- 3—TERRY TAYLOR  
219, Tampa, FL
- 4—KRUSHER DARROW  
303, Thief River Falls, MN
- 5—HACKSAW REED  
249, Kansas City, MO
- 6—MR. WRESTLING II  
232, Atlanta, GA
- 7—MAGNUM T.A.  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 8—LANNY POFO  
228, Sarasota, FL
- 9—STEVE WILLIAMS  
234, Tulsa, OK
- 10—KAMALA  
360, Uganda

## MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—AUSTIN IDOL  
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 2—JERRY LAWLER  
234, Memphis, TN
- 3—JOS LeDUC  
280, Godbout, Quebec
- 4—DUTCH MANTEL  
224, Oil Trough, TX
- 5—RICK ROOD  
233, Robinsdale, MN
- 6—EDDIE GILBERT  
222, Lexington, TN
- 7—BRIAN ADIDAS  
240, Lake Dallas, TX
- 8—RANDY SAVAGE  
235, Sarasota, FL
- 9—STAGGER LEE  
217, Union City, TN
- 10—TERRY GIBBS  
237, Atlanta, GA

## NORTHWEST

- 1—RIP OLIVER  
245, Tampa, FL
- 2—MATT BORNE  
240, Milwaukie, OR
- 3—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE  
245, Minneapolis, MN
- 4—SCOTT McGHEE  
220, Shipley, England
- 5—THE ASSASSIN  
240, parts unknown
- 6—CURT HENNIG  
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 7—JULES STRONGBOW  
247, Pawhuska, OK
- 8—TOM PRITCHARD  
220, Houston, TX
- 9—MIKE MILLER  
260, Memphis, TN
- 10—JERRY O  
235, New Haven, CT

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"IT'S MULLIGAN'S FAULT I'M NOT WWF CHAMPION!"

Chez Adams Brings Big Garcia  
A RAY OF SUNSHINE IN THE LONE STAR STATE

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And His Son...  
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DUSTY RHODES Interview  
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The 10 Year Chase Is Over:  
ANDRE FINALLY CORNERS ABDULLAH

EDDIE GILBERT AREA CLOSEUP MAKIN' MAYHEM IN MACON

Nick Bockwinkel's Championship Diary  
A YEAR OF HELL, A YEAR OF GLORY

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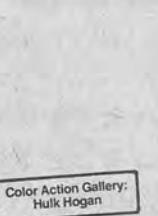
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## **YOUR LETTERS**

(Continued from page 6)

### **THE RUSSIAN ALLIANCE**

Being avid Mid-South wrestling fans, we are concerned about the recent introduction of the Russian Alliance into this area. This wrestling team consists of Nikolai Volkoff and Krusher Darsow. The Russian Alliance's sole purpose is to downgrade America and American athletes. We feel the situation has grown to a point where it is necessary to call in an extraordinary tag team: The Original Outlaws—Dusty Rhodes and Dick Murdoch. After all, The American Dream and Captain Redneck stand for a lot of what America is all about.

STEVE CALDWELL  
MARK RANDOLPH  
Shreveport, LA

### **AKBAR: PAY THE \$10,000!**

I would like to tell wrestling fans that there has been a challenge made by Gen. Skandor Akbar. This challenge says that anyone who can bodyslam Kamala will receive \$10,000. This challenge has been fulfilled not once, not twice, but three times by none other than Kerry Von Erich. And Gen.



Skandor Akbar, leading Kamala to the ring, owes Kerry Von Erich \$10,000 for successfully bodyslamming the general's wrestler.



Recently crowned WWF Intercontinental champion Tito Santana applies a headlock against The Iron Sheik. Reader Laura Carlson says there is no way Tito would ever blackmail the WWF, as one of our articles speculated.

Akbar still won't pay up. That money rightfully belongs to Kerry, and I hope to see him get it. Kerry has worked very hard and he should be paid off. He shouldn't have to get down on his knees and beg for what is rightfully his. I would like to see something done about this situation. My vote is for Kerry Von Erich to be paid the \$10,000 by Gen. Skandor Akbar.

CHRISTINE CLEMENTS  
Lynn, MA

### TITO'S BLACKMAIL?

The article in your March 1984 issue, "Is Tito Santana Trying To Blackmail The WWF?" is the most ridiculous article I have ever read!

First of all, if this were true, I wouldn't blame Tito. Whoever thought up this absurd idea of not letting two scientific fan favorites wrestle each other should be publicly ridiculed. The object of this sport is to bring forth the best wrestler, but it sounds to me like they're just waiting for an unpopular, conceited, rulebreaking wrestler to win the title before Tito gets his shot.

But since the chances of Tito turning rulebreaker are slim, you shouldn't have printed this ill-boding article unless you've found that Tito meant it to be blackmail.

I'm sure many Tito fans would agree with me, because we all know that Tito is too sweet and too considerate, and he cares about his fans too much to pull this garbage that you claim he is doing!

LAURA CARLSON  
East Haddam, CT

### CONGRATULATIONS, WARRIORS

An open letter to The Road Warriors:

Congratulations on becoming the National tag team champions once again. I knew that Buzz Sawyer and that excuse of a man he calls his brother, Brett Sawyer, were not men enough to hold on to those belts. I am honored to have seen you wrestle on television. You are legends in your own time, and I wish that these ignorant fans would begin treating you as such.

ESAW SINGLETARY  
Johnsonville, SC □



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## BOCKWINKEL-BRAVO

(Continued from page 41)



Bockwinkel enjoys a rare instance in the match in which he holds the upper hand (above left). But Dino soon regains the advantage, applying a wraparound leglock on the champion (above right).

Bravo was strangely calm in his dressing room, as if marshaling all his concentration on the coming bout. All the preparation was complete. Now he could only wait for the moment of battle.

The two men entered the arena to loud but sharply different ovations. Bravo was greeted by cheers and Bockwinkel strutted down the aisle to boos and catcalls. Once the two men were inside the ring, they stood and faced each other with a professional athlete's sense of duty.

At the bell, the two men warily came together. What happened then could better be described by epic poets than journalists. Like two thundering gods of war, they battled furiously for what seemed strangely like both an instant and an eternity. At first, neither man could gain an advantage. Then Bockwinkel seemed to be in control, only for Bravo to confound him. Then Bravo seemed to be unstoppable, but Bockwinkel used his sly, illegal tactics to thwart Dino's victory. Every so often, one looked

to Heenan, who watched the match as if he was staring at a ghost that hated his guts.

The final minute showed Bockwinkel at his worst. He gave up trying to win. Instead, he decided to escape with his title. Grabbing Bravo by the arm, he swung his foe so that the two wrestlers were surrounding the referee. An instant later, the referee lay on the mat unconscious. One didn't need a diagram to understand what happened. Bockwinkel had knocked the referee unconscious.

Several seconds later, the referee regained his senses enough to announce Bockwinkel was disqualified. Nick pretended to be enraged and contended loudly that Bravo had done the damage. Nobody believed Nick's anger. They knew he'd done the deed and why. Nick's look of genuine relief when he left the ring and made for the dressing room told the story.

The next day, Bockwinkel and Heenan left Montreal for a series of scheduled defenses in Japan with huge smiles on their faces. Mission accomplished. Found, one AWA champion's wrestling edge. They were ready to take on the world again. □

# PRO Wrestling Illustrated BACK ISSUES



PWI/Jan 80

Color Starshot: Mr. Wrestling II



PWI/July 80

Color Starshot: The Sheik



PWI/Aug 80

Color Starshots: Koloff & Smirnoff



PWI/Sept 80

Color Starshots: Rick Steamboat, Humpertink's Army, Hulk Hogan



PWI/Jan 81

Color Poster: Bruno Sammartino



SOLD OUT



PWI/Oct 81

Color Poster: Ted DiBiase



PWI/Jan 82

Color Poster: Magnificent Muraco



PWI/May 82

Color Poster: Ric Flair



PWI/June 82

Color Poster: Nick Bockwinkel



PWI/Aug 82

Color Poster: Dino Bravo



PWI/Sept 82

Color Poster: Blackjack Mulligan Jr.



PWI/Oct 82

Color Poster: Jerry Lawler



PWI/Dec 82

Color Poster: Rick Martel



PWI/Jan 83

Color Poster: Ken Patera



PWI/Feb 83

Color Poster: Ivan Putski



PWI/Mar 83

Color Poster: Andre The Giant



PWI/Apr 83

Color Poster: Superstar Graham



PWI/May 83

Color Poster: Jimmy Valiant



PWI/June 83

Color Poster: Cowboy Bob Orton



PWI/July 83

Color Poster: Ivan Koloff



PWI/Aug 83

Color Poster: Larry Zbyszko



PWI/Sept 83

Color Poster: Kevin Von Erich



PWI/Oct 83

Color Poster: Junkyard Dog



PWI/Nov 83

Color Poster: Roddy Piper



PWI/Dec 83

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

**Rick Steamboat** will be coming out of retirement to face NWA World champion **Ric Flair**. You may recall that following Flair's victory over **Harley Race** on Thanksgiving for the NWA title, Flair went over to Steamboat, shook his hand, and said, "I owe you one." Reporters on the scene in Greensboro, North Carolina, were mystified as to what Flair meant, but now we see that he was talking about a title shot.

Steamboat reports that he is looking forward to the match. "My fans were so great to me on my farewell tour," he said, "it's hard for me not to be looking forward to wrestling for them again. I don't intend to make a complete comeback, but I must say that if I win the title, I probably won't retire with the belt. I don't know, I'm just going to have to do my best and see what happens. It'll be great to see all my fans again!"

**Tully Blanchard** is headed to the Mid-Atlantic area ... **Killer Brooks** is wrestling in the Texas Southwest area ... **Hacksaw Duggan** says that he doesn't care whether or not the fans are cheering him in Florida (they're not), it's winning matches that matters.

The tension between **Magnum T.A.** and **Mr. Wrestling II** is growing greater. Magnum was recently awarded a title match against North American heavyweight champion **Junkyard Dog**. As a result, Wrestling II became extremely upset. He claimed that JYD wanted to wrestle Magnum only because he knew he could beat him easily. II said that Dog should face a real challenge—like himself. After all, Wrestling II claimed, Mag-

num's one-week title reign as north American champion was "only a fluke."

Perhaps out of anger or perhaps out of frustration, **Wrestling II** slapped Magnum across the face and then walked away. Magnum's reply? "Mr. Wrestling II is the only man who can smack me in the face and walk away . . . this time."

Former Georgia area fan favorite **Rick Rood** is currently



Rick Rood's supporting cast, valet Angel and manager Jimmy Hart, taunt the wrestler's opponent.

wrestling in the Mid-Southern area under the management of **Jimmy Hart**. Rood has enlisted the services of a valet by the name of **Angel**, and she's been having a profound effect on some of Rood's matches lately. In one recent contest, Rood faced **Brett Sawyer**. Angel interfered in the match, and Hart soon joined in. Before anyone realized what was happening, Brett was the victim of a vicious three-on-one attack. Fortu-

nately, Brett's brother, **Buzz Sawyer**, ran into the ring and broke things up. The official result? Rood was disqualified for outside interference.

**The Fabulous Freebirds** will soon be flying to the AWA area for a series of matches. The AWA looks like it will be heating up in the months to come, as **Bruno Sammartino Jr.** and **Larry Zbyszko** are also headed to the Midwest ... **Abdullah the Butcher** says he wants to face world heavyweight boxing champion **Larry Holmes** in a wrestler vs. boxer match. Speaking about boxing champions, former world heavyweight king **Joe Frazier** is reportedly set to wrestle Puerto Rico's **Victor Jovica** in Trinidad and then referee a match between World Wrestling Council Universal champion **Carlos Colon** and **Bruiser Brody**.

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

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## 'YOU ASKED US'

(Continued from page 12)

Q: "My question is for Dennis Condrey of The Midnight Express: How could you tar and feather Magnum T.A.? Don't you know that it's 1984? That kind of thing was stopped a long time ago!" —Samantha Harrison, Shreveport, LA

A: Manager Jim Cornette answered for Condrey: "Young lady, Loverboy Dennis does not have the time nor the inclination to answer your incredibly stupid question. The man is



Manager Jim Cornette feels that his team, The Midnight Express, is ready to take the Mid-South tag team belts.

very, very busy preparing to take the Mid-South tag team titles away from T.A. and the poster boy for old age, Mr. Wrestling II. I don't really care if you get your answer or not. There is only one important woman in my life, and that is my mother. As for tar and feathering, it wasn't tar, it was molasses. T.A. and II are chickens, and we just had to show the wrestling fans what they really were. It was the funniest thing I've ever seen in a wrestling ring."

Q: "For NWA World champion Ric Flair: So many wrestlers envy your place as the greatest wrestler in the world. To what do you attribute your greatness?" —Julio Torres, Lantana, FL

A: "Yes, Julio, not only other wrestlers, but people from all walks of life envy the NWA World champion," Flair replied. "It's not just the title belt, however. They envy the money, the excitement, the sense of style. To what do I attribute my greatness? I attribute it to being the man that I am. I'm a perfectionist. I work hard. I play hard. I do everything at 200 percent. That's the way I am. I want it all. And I get everything I want."

Q: "I have a question for Precious Paul Ellering: I'd like to know what you're planning to do now that King Kong Bundy is after you and your Legion of



Precious Paul Ellering claims to have no fear of his newest enemy, the 420-pound King Kong Bundy.

Buffoons?" —Marlene Gregory, Shaker Heights, OH

A: "Am I supposed to be afraid of Ding Dong Bundy?" Ellering replied. "I'm going to try to answer this ridiculous question as seriously as I can, although it will be quite a test for me. I have nothing to fear. The Legion of Doom is indestructible. What can that mountain of flab do to The Road Warriors? Animal and Hawk will destroy him. And Jake Roberts, who weighs about half what that pile of lard does, has the talent and the ability to take him apart piece by disgusting piece. I don't worry about Bundy. I have more important things to worry about, like what wine to drink with dinner. Please don't bother me with another outrageous question like this one."

Q: "This question is for either of The Fabulous Ones, Steve Keirn or Stan Lane: Considering all the teams you have wrestled, did The Rock 'n' Roll Express rate as one of your toughest challenges?" —Mandy Farnham, Memphis

A: "The first thing I want to say about the Express is that they gave us one of our toughest matches ever," Keirn said. "Rick Morton and Robert Gibson are fine wrestlers. They don't have the size of a team like The Muslims, they aren't deranged like The Moondogs, and they don't have the experience of Ken Patera and Crusher Blackwell, but they have speed, talent, and they give all they've got in a match. It was also a pleasure to wrestle in a scientific match. I know that the fans enjoyed it, and all four of us did as well. It was a chance for us to really use our athletic skills. I would definitely rate them as one of the toughest challenges Stan and I ever ran into."

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## CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)



Jerry Lawler drops upon Ken Patera with a double-kneedrop during a tag team match pitting Lawler and Austin Idol against AWA champions Patera and Crusher Blackwell.

**Memphis, Tennessee, (Correspondent —Derick Singleton):** In the main event at the Coliseum, AWA World tag team champions Ken Patera and Crusher Blackwell defended their title against Jerry "The King" Lawler and the "Universal Heartthrob," Austin Idol.

Idol and Patera started the match for their teams. Idol slammed Patera's head into the turnbuckle and followed with a ring-shaking powerslam. Patera powered out of a cover at the two-count and tagged his 474-pound partner.

Blackwell powerslammed Idol and then brought Patera back into the ring. The champions double-teamed Idol until Lawler rushed into the ring and ran Patera back to his corner.

Both teams tagged off and Lawler floored both his opponents with right hands. Patera tagged off to Blackwell, who surprised Lawler with a bodyblock, putting The King on the canvas. Blackwell then "big splashed" Lawler but could not pin him.

Lawler rallied back and stunned Blackwell with closed fists. Blackwell tagged Patera, who unsuccessfully traded punches with Lawler. Blackwell entered the ring to break up Lawler's attempted pin of Patera. The champions were disqualified, but held on to their title.

In other bouts, Elijah Akeen and Kareem Muhammad defeated Steve Keirn and Stan Lane ... Jos LeDuc defeated Tommy Gilbert ... King Konga defeated Art Crews.

**Buffalo, New York (Correspondent —Michael Farina):** The fans in the Auditorium in Buffalo watched the Polish strongman, Ivan Putski, take on the Masked Superstar.

Putski displayed his incredible strength, wearing the masked wrestler down with chinlocks and headlocks. Frustrated, the Superstar rolled out onto the arena floor. Putski followed him and slammed Superstar's head into the timekeeper's bell.

Back in the ring, Superstar surprised Putski with a spinecrusher, and then whipped him into the ropes. Putski rebounded into a Superstar bearhug, but he managed to power out. Ivan then whipped Superstar into the ropes and floored him with the Polish hammer. Putski then tried to unmask his opponent, but Superstar broke free from his grasp, rolled out of the ring, and ran back to the dressing room. Putski was awarded the match by countout.

In other bouts, Tito Santana defeated Magnificent Muraco by disqualification ... Iron Sheik defeated Tony Garea ... Andre the Giant defeated Sgt. Slaughter via countout ... Rocky Johnson and Tony Atlas defeated Tiger Chung Lee and Mr. Fuji ... Brian Blair defeated Bob Bass. □

# SPORTS REVIEW

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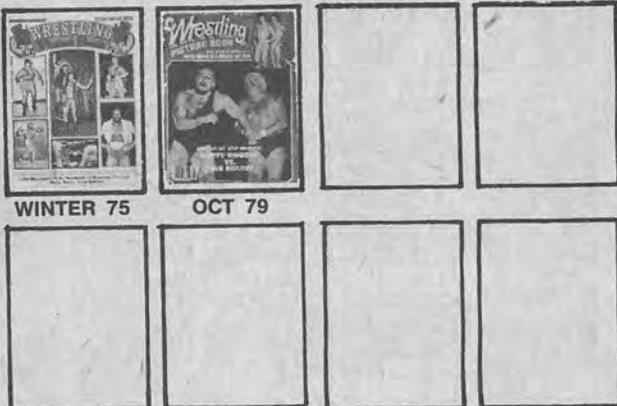
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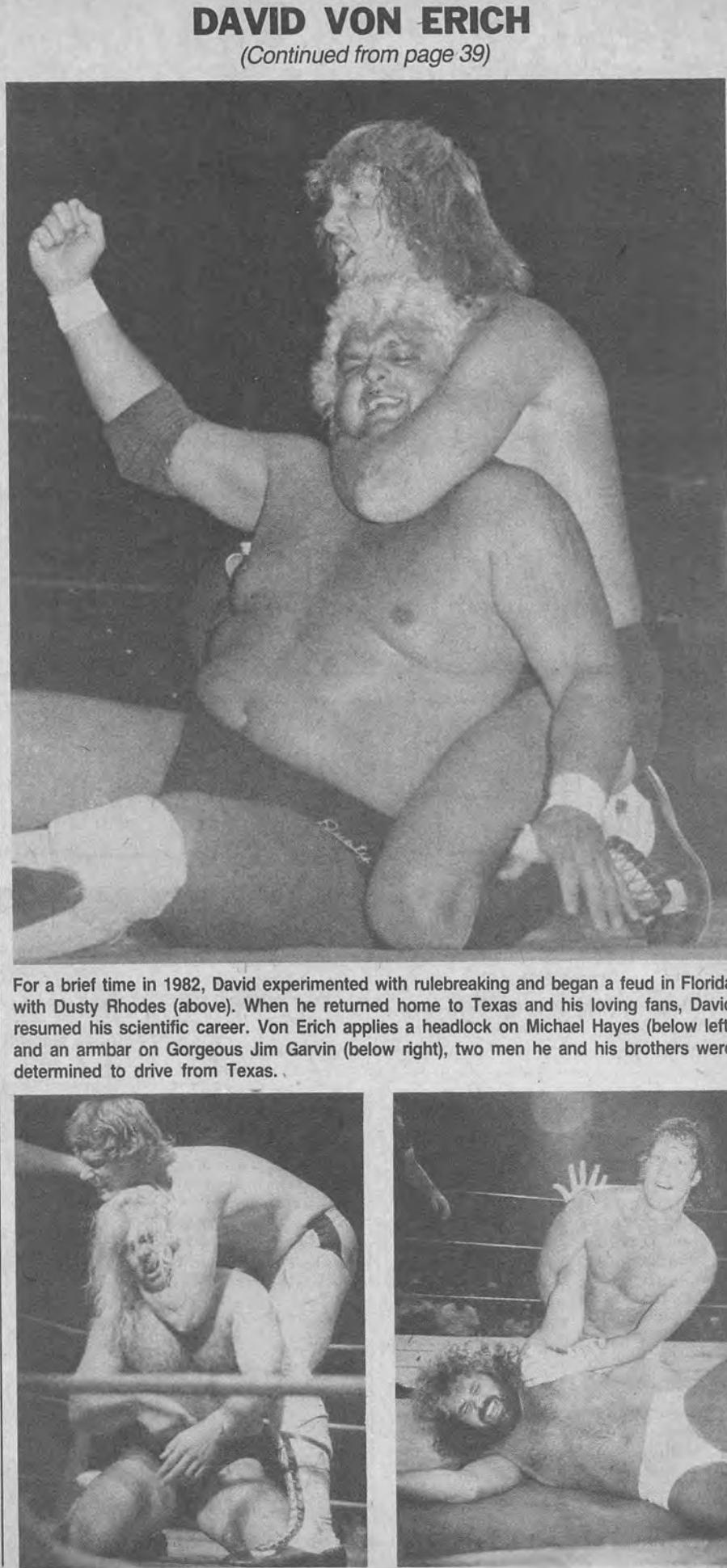
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## DAVID VON ERICH

(Continued from page 39)

State heavyweight title, an honor he held until January 6, 1984, when he was defeated by Harley Race in St. Louis.

David made his only Madison Square Garden appearance on November 11, 1979, against Davey O'Hannon. At the time, David noted that "wrestling in the Garden is the thrill of a lifetime, but I have to admit that I'm looking forward to getting



Tricia and David Von Erich cherished their marriage. "I have never in my life felt such a strong feeling of devotion and love from so many people at the same time," Tricia said of the fans who attended David's funeral.

back home to Texas. I'm a Lone Star cowboy at heart!"

Late in 1981, David traveled to Florida and struck up a friendship with Dory Funk Jr., a friendship that would soon influence David to adopt some of the stylistic mannerisms of the rule-breaking community. In the autumn of 1982, David vowed that he'd "rather quit wrestling than be Dory Funk Jr.'s puppet," and he triumphantly returned to Texas once again to the overwhelming cheers and approval of his many fans.

(Continued on page 64)

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## DAVID VON ERICH

(Continued from page 63)



David and Kerry help brother Kevin out of the ring after a grueling six-man tag team battle against The Freebirds (above). The love between the three brothers was something special, as was the love the fans had for David. Hundreds of fans come to the First Baptist Church in Denton to pay their last respects to their hero (below).





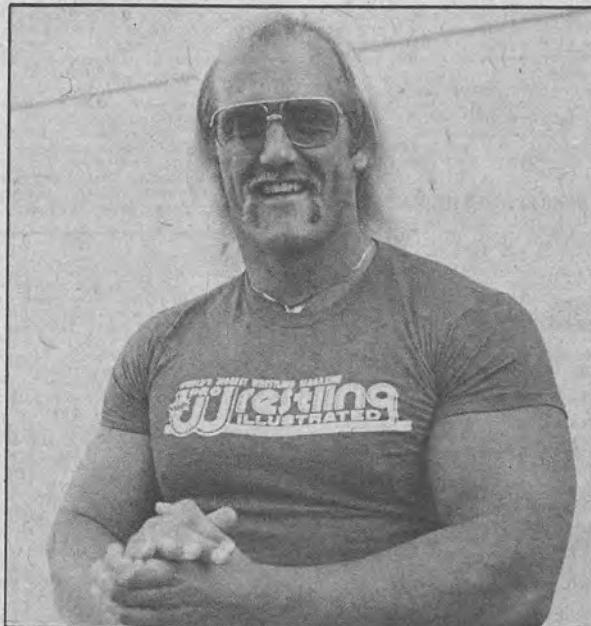
Shortly thereafter, The Freebirds arrived in Texas. Originally they claimed to be friends of David's, but they turned on him on Christmas Night, 1982. That marked the beginning of a feud between The Freebirds and the Von Erichs that still continues.

Throughout his entire career, David attempted to achieve nothing but excellence in his athletic endeavors. If excellence is measured by the attainment of championship titles and becoming the object of unmatched admiration by his peers and by millions of wrestling fans around the world, then David Von Erich certainly reached that pinnacle of excellence he was striving for.

David Von Erich achieved much in his 25 years on this earth, and as long as we remember those achievements, as long as we recall the excellence that is David Von Erich, he will never be gone. Not from our hearts, nor from the pages of wrestling's history book. □

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\* **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



## MEET THE AUTHORS

**GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D.**, is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina, with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

**Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D.**, with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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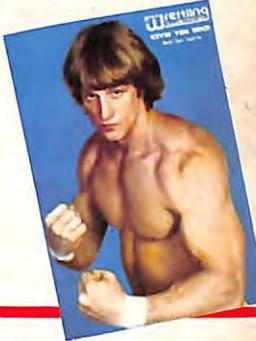


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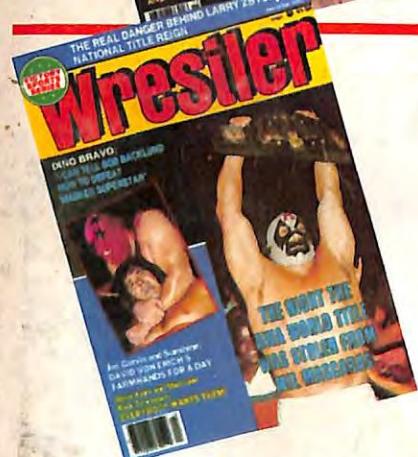
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